Daily Report

Latin America

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Andean Presidents in Caracas for Pact Meeting

PA1705205691 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Tight security measures surrounded the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia for the arrival of the presidents of Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, and Peru, who will discuss various topics on regional integration.

Since 1000 a large number of delegates as well as members of the national and international media have been waiting for the visiting presidents to arrive at the airport.

The first to arrive was Colombian President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo, who was received by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. Gaviria was accompanied by Colombian Economic Development Minister Ernesto Samper and others who are participating in the political and economic talks.

The second to arrive was Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja. Minutes later, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori landed in Venezuela. This is his fourth trip outside the country since he took office almost a year ago. Bolivian President Jaime Paz Zamora was the last to arrive.

After the presidential honors, all presidents traveled to Caracas to initiate the Andean Pact summit, which will end tomorrow, Saturday, with the signing of important agreements.

Foreign Ministers Meet

PA1705205591 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 May 91

[Report by Martin Pacheco]

[Text] Good afternoon, dear friends. We are here at the mezzanine of the Caracas Hilton Hotel. At this hour, the five foreign ministers of the countries that signed the Andean Pact are holding a closed-door meeting. The modifications and changes that have to be made to the so-called Caracas Declaration are the main topic of the current discussion between the five foreign ministers. The foreign ministers attending this meeting are Luis Fernando Jaramillo, representing Colombia; Diego Cordovez, representing Ecuador; Carlos Torres y Torres, representing Peru; Carlos Iturralde, representing Bolivia; and Armando Duran, representing Venezuela.

Since 0900 when the meeting began, the ministers have only been visited by some advisers. We have been told that, in the course of the following hours, the foreign ministers will give some kind of briefing or initial statements on the contents of the Caracas Declaration.

In our 15 May cast, we stated that the Caracas Declaration has five main points. One point deals with the secret and direct election of the members of the Andean Parliament. Another point refers to the establishment of a common tariff system for all Andean Pact countries. In addition, the Caracas Declaration establishes the reorganization of the Andean Pact to allow for its integration, so to speak, with other Latin American economic groups such as the Central American Common Market, the South American Common Market, and the Caribbean Common Market.

The Caracas Declaration also provides for the establishment of an open skies policy between the five countries that signed the Andean Pact, within the framework of Latin American integration. The first step of this integration will be the creation of the Andean Free Trade Market and later the Latin American Common Market.

With this in mind, we are looking for a better identity for Latin America as well as a united voice with respect to the large centers of power, particularly vis-a-vis the large economic centers such as the EEC.

Presidential Council Meets

PA1805041791 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The fifth Andean presidential council was opened in Caracas at 1530 today with the presence of Presidents Cesar Gaviria of Colombia, Rodrigo Borja of Ecuador, Alberto Fujimori of Peru, Jaime Paz Zamora of Bolivia, and Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela. The meeting will hold a broad discussion of the so- called Caracas agreement, which deals, among other things, with an expansion of the Andean subregional pact. The discussion will seek coincidences with other organizations, such as the Central American Common Market, the South American Common Market, and Caricom [Caribbean Common Market]. In addition, an open airways policy will be declared in the five Bolivarian countries that comprise the subregional pact and the need to establish the Andean free trade market on 31 December this year, whereby Venezuelan products will freely enter the other countries, and vice versa, will be insisted on. The presidents think this will be the first step in the creation of the Latin American common market, which will be a reality in five years.

This Andean presidential council might extend late into the night, when the presidents will establish the final terms of the Caracas agreement. The presidents will meet again tomorrow. The document is scheduled to be signed at 1530 tomorrow.

Presidents Sign Declaration

PA1805220791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1019 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Caracas, 18 May (EFE)— The Fifth Council of Andean Pact Presidents ended here last night with the signing of the "Caracas Declaration," in which the presidents ratified that economic integration should be complemented with actions in other areas in order to have a coherent process with solid foundations.

Presidents Jaime Paz Zamora, Cesar Gaviria, Rodrigo Borja, Alberto Fujimori, and Carlos Andres Perez, the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, respectively, met in Caracas for two days to accelerate the integration process in their countries.

The declaration, which was signed by the five presidents, stressed the importance of creating one bloc of Andean economies in 1995 by establishing an Andean common

market. However, it also recommends other forms of cooperation and integration in other areas.

In the political field, the Fifth Council promoted another protocol to the Andean Parliament Treaty in order to update that organization's functions and guidelines.

The treaty amendments established that from now on, the members of the Andean Parliament will not be designated, but elected by the people in direct and secret elections. The amendments also changed the number of representatives from each country, increasing the number of representatives from five to 10 per country, and their substitutes from 10 to 20.

In the legal field, the presidents recommended strict compliance with the current legal order and strengthened the Andean Court of Justice, recognizing the obligation of the five countries to comply with its decisions.

Therefore, the Caracas Declaration urges the recognition of the principle of supranationality of the Andean community laws, which should be duly enforced by the authorities in each country.

Important agreements were also reached in the areas of communications and transportation, as reflected in the ratification of the "open skies" policy agreed upon by the communications and transprotation ministers of the five countries on 14 May in Caracas. That decision will permit the airlines of Andean Pact countries to operate freely on routes having as their origin and destination points within the geographical area of the five countries.

According to the Caracas Declaration, this measure, which includes passenger, cargo, and mail transportation, makes the Andean Pact countries the world leaders in the integration of international services.

The joint struggle against drug trafficking will include other related activities, such as money laundering, by checking capital of doubtful origin, illegal movement of airplanes, as well as the sale and distribution of weapons and explosives.

The presidents' concern to preserve and conserve the environment was also included in the declaration. It urges preparing thoroughly and carefully for the conference on the environment and development to be held in Brazil in 1992.

One must not forget that the southern area of Venezuela and the eastern slopes of the Andes in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru form part of the great Amazon Basin.

The final document of the Fifth Council also covers the health situation created by the cholera situation, particularly in Peru, and it establishes that this is everyone's problem and that it must be fought and eradicated.

It also recommended greater efforts in developing mining and agriculture as a means to guarantee the maintenance of important sources of employment and nutrition.

In addition, the summit supported the initiative of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez saying that the countries that produce and consume crude oil will meet in July in France in order to stabilize the world energy market.

The declaration concludes by naming Colombia as the site for the Sixth Council of Andean Presidents to be held in November.

C. A. Vice Presidents Reactivate Trifinio Plan

PA1905182591 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] The vice presidents of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras agreed on 13 May in San Salvador to reactivate the Trifinio Plan. The three officials also expressed concern over the difficulties they have encountered regarding the Central American parliament's installation. They agreed that the Trifinio Plan is a feasible alternative for integration in the region, which would serve as an example of firm and lasting peace.

Salvadoran Vice President Merino announced that the implementation of six elements of the agricultural development plan were agreed upon at the meeting, and they will widely benefit the peasant sector.

[Begin Merino recording] This new phase that we are initiating for the Trifinio Plan obliges us to work alongside the people who are expecting the fruits of development, which will be translated into an improved standard of living for small farmers and into the management and conservation of renewable natural resources and environment, which are in a state of deterioration and in danger of being totally lost. [end recording]

The vice presidents also studied the issue of parliamentarians, which was agreed upon by the region's governments in 1987. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador already have their parliamentarians for the forum; only Nicaragua and Costa Rica do not, and the latter has encountered problems in the election of its parliamentarians because some sectors in the country do not support the plan. Nevertheless, time is running out and integration is necessary.

[Begin Merino recording] According to the original document, the parliament can operate with three or four countries. We will go ahead with the solemn installation, which must take place on the established 1 November deadline in the Republic of Guatemala. Nicaragua must seek options for financing in Europe. As I was saying, six Central American technical experts and politicians from the four countries that have ratified the original treaty, with the exception of Costa Rica, will travel to Europe next month to learn about the European Parliament. [end recording]

The headquarters of the Central American parliament will be the city of Esquipulas, Guatemala, and the parliament must be formed by November. Thus, the [word indistinct] country representatives will encourage Nicaragua and Costa Rica to join the regional forum as soon as possible.

Cuba

Castro Says Medicine To Become Top Seller

PA1905193091 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 1403 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Cuban President Fidel Castro has said that in the future medicine will be the country's leading source of income. During a talk with Havana workers who have been transferred to agricultural activities in Havana Province Castro described as very positive the work of Cuban research centers. He said that the Cuban research centers are different from those in capitalist countries where there is competition instead of cooperation.

In his fifth visit to the Victory's Smile agricultural camp, Castro expressed satisfaction with the progress of the food program and said that this is one of the most important ways to cope with the country's current economic situation. He described as positive the contribution to agriculture by more than 15,000 men and women who voluntarily and in shifts participate in planting and harvesting chores.

Castro Presides Over Havana Agrarian Meeting

FL1705122391 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has presided over a meeting of the executive committee of the Council of Ministers with the presidents of 28 Agricultural-Livestock Cooperatives [CPA] specialized in miscellaneous crops in Havana Province. The progress of the current spring planting program and other subjects relating to the immediate-future perspectives of the agrarian sector were discussed. Several CPA presidents commented on the results of their winter crops and their plans for spring. It was reported during the meeting that of the 1,999 caballerias to be planted with vegetables, 975 have been planted in the state and cooperative sectors. [Words indistinct] in two Havana Provinces.

Soviet Ambassador Notes Cooperation

PA1905030891 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] During the celebration of the annual Cuban-Soviet Friendship Association assembly today, Soviet Ambassador Yuriy Petrov said that cooperation and mutual aid between the USSR and Cuba will continue to strengthen. Petrov noted the altruistic aid given by Cuba to the children who were victims of the Chernobyl disaster, to the Armenian homeless, and to the disabled veterans of the Afghanistan war.

Brazilian Education Delegation Arrives

FL1805181791 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] A delegation of university presidents from several Brazilian states has arrived in Cuba to sign cooperation agreements on education and public health issues. The delegation is composed of higher education personalities representing 17 Brazilian universities. During their stay in Cuba they will tour schools and sign agreements for scientific, technical, investigative, and pedagogic cooperation. This is the first meeting between university presidents of Cuba and Brazil.

The Brazilian delegation is headed by engineer Eduardo Jose Pereida, president of the Directive Council of Brazilian Universities. Miguel Torres Hernandez, Cuba's first vice minister of higher education, welcomed the delegation at Jose Marti International Airport.

PRC Party Friendship Delegation on Tour

FL1705201591 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The Chinese Communist Party friendship delegation visiting our country toured today the Pam American Games installations located in Habana del Este. The Chinese delegation is headed by Zhao Zongnai, member of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and deputy director of its Organization Department. During the tour of the sports facilities, our Chinese guests were accompanied by Abelardo Alvarez Gil, member of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] Central Committee and director of its Organization Department.

The members of the delegation showed interest in the pool complex, track facilitiess, the Pan American village, and the stadium. The PRC friendship delegation arrived in Cuba last Wednesday at the invitation of the PCC and will remain on the island until 22 May. Its members will visit places of social and economic interest and will travel to Santiago de Cuba and Matanzas. The visit responds to the interest of the two countries in strengthening bilateral friendship and cooperation ties.

Officials Greet Soldiers' Return From Angola

FL1705160091 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Another group of heroes returned to Cuba last night. Our internationalist soldiers were greeted by Francisco Linares Calvo and Jose Moreno Boffil, members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC], at the steps of the airplane that brought them back from Luanda.

[Begin Linares recording] I am fulfilling the honorable duty that the leadership of the party has assigned to me to express on their behalf and on behalf of the Cuban people their recognition and gratitude for the historic mission that you have fulfilled as internationalist soldiers. [end recording]

Linares Calvo said that the historic attitude of our internationalist soldiers has shown the strength of the Cuban revolution, the steadfastness of our ideas and principles, and the resolute socialist route that we have chosen. The solemn welcoming ceremony was also attended by Brigadier General Nestor Lopez Cuba of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, Interior Ministry Colonel Adan Hernandez, and other officials.

Later our reporter interviewed Colonel Nivaldo Forteza Martinez, commander of this group of returning soldiers.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] Do you agree that you have arrived in our country at an extremely crucial and complex moment?

[Forteza] We are aware of this, and we are willing to give our utmost effort and sacrifice to support and strengthen socialism in Cuba. We want to proclaim to the PCC, our revolutionary government, and our commander in chief that in the same fashion that we fulfilled our mission in the People's Republic of Angola, we are willing to fulfill any task that the revolutionary party might assign to us at any time.

[Reporter] What do you think your role will be from now on?

[Forteza] To be steadfast, more committed, and united with the party and Fidel, to be willing to continue the work of the Cuban revolution and the strengthening of our socialism. [end recording]

More Military Equipment Returns From Angola

FL1805132891 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The vessel Bahia Honda has arrived at Mariel port in Havana Province with armaments and technical equipment from Angola.

[Begin reporter recording] Cuban internationalist troops used these weapons to fight for the independence and strengthening of defense capabilities of the Angolan people. Division General Ramon Pardo Guerra, first deputy chief of the Western Army, said during the welcoming ceremony that these armored vehicles, artillery, and communications equipment will now augment the combat resources of the Revolutionary Armed Forces. This is the first vessel to arrive in Cuba during the final phase of Operation Victory. [end recording]

National Bank Will Issue New 3 Peso Coin

FL2005124491 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] The National Bank of Cuba will put a new three peso coin into circulation in the next few months. The coin will be white and on one side will have the image of Commander Ernesto Che Guevara imprinted. The coin is the result of a [words indistinct] program initiated by the National Bank of Cuba to achieve savings by reducing imports.

It is an international practice to circulate metal coins in the lower denominations to replace paper notes which deteriorate too quickly. In Cuba, the introduction of these coins will mean a considerable reduction of expenses, since the National Bank has to import paper notes. The one peso note has never been removed from circulation in spite of its scarcity in the streets. The one peso note will not be eliminated even though popular usage of the coin is cheaper for the country. The fact that paper notes and coins will be in circulation simultaneously does not represent any change in the monetary policies of Cuba.

Radio Commentators Criticize Bush Statements

PA1905171791 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0100 GMT 17 May 91

[From the "Between Colleagues" feature with Pedro Martinez Pirez and Guillermo Santiesteban]

[Text] [Martinez Pirez] Greetings, friends. Today my colleague Guillermo Santiesteban is with me and we will comment on a NOTIMEX dispatch with a Chicago dateline that cites statements by U.S. President George Bush.

The report says that Bush, in an interview published in the magazine HISPANIC BUSINESS, cautioned that his administration will maintain the economic and commercial isolation of the government of Cuban President Fidel Castro. Bush states that his government supports continued international pressure on Cuba. He said that this policy will be maintained to force the opening of Cuba's political and economic system and to let the Cuban peope breathe the fresh air of liberty that is blowing in Latin America, East Europe, and, to a lesser degree, in the USSR.

The NOTIMEX report also states Bush said that the U.S. Government has discussed the Soviet Union's economic and military support for the Cuban Government with Soviet leaders, and that it will insist on pursuing this issue. The U.S. president said that Soviet aid to Cuba was reduced last year and, this is a quote, we would like to see more restrictions.

Santiesteban, this is a hot issue in the anti-Cuban propaganda effort. It has to do with the conditions that the United States wants to impose on Cuba to normalize relations.

[Santiesteban] Bernard Aronson, assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, will probably deliver a speech in Miami on 20 May. This speech will be delivered in the home of a large group of immigrants who went to the United States because of their virulent opposition to the system we defend. According to THE MIAMI HERALD, Aronson's speech will apparently deal with the conditions that the United States would impose on Cuba. On this occasion I think he will place emphasis on one particular condition. Basing my opinion on reports, I think the United States will pledge to soften its position on Cuba in exchange for us holding what they view as free elections, not the kind of elections we freely hold, but the kind of elections they view as free elections.

So here is Bush in a case of double meddling: On the one hand he tells Cuba that it must meet certain conditions, and on the other he tells the Soviet Union what it has to do with regard to Cuba. This is a delicate matter that has always been a delicate matter, but apparently, at this time, due to the arrogance the United States has developed in recent years with the crumbling of the socialist system in Eastern Europe, it feels it has the authority to tell not only Cuba—the United States has always tried to order Cuba around—but also the Soviet Union, what it must do with

regard to Cuba. This is the situation as we see it based on the two reports we have here at hand, on other international reports, and on what important Western spokesmen of the grand imperial system say.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has characterized Bush's statements to HISPANIC BUSINESS, which were later reported by NOTIMEX, as meddling and arrogant. It must be said also that a few months ago the Soviet Government termed U.S. pressure aimed at producing a reduction of Soviet aid to Cuba as meddling and rejected this pressure.

It must be reported also that 20 May, the date when Mr. Aronson is scheduled to speak, is the date being celebrated in the United States as Cuba's Independence Day, because on 20 May 1902 the U.S. military forces that were in our country withdrew leaving behind a neocolony. I think that the idea, Santiesteban, is not only to exert pressure on Cuba, but also to portray a new U.S. image. That is, they are suggesting to Cuba that there could be a change in bilateral relations if there are U.S.-style free elections in Cuba, if Cuban society is democratized the U.S. way, etc.

This is interesting because Cuban-U.S. differences, which date back to the past century, have been changing because of Washington's shiftings. At the beginning, Washington used to say that Cuba should not have relations with the Soviet Union. Now the North Americans are telling the Soviets that they should reduce their economic and military ties with Cuba. The North Americans have called for Cuba's withdrawal from Africa and the end of Cuban support for the cause of Puerto Rican independence. They have changed their positions until they came to the point of total meddling in Cuba's domestic affairs.

The Cuban Constitution and the Cuban political system are determined by the Cubans, not by the North Americans.

[Santiesteban] Of course. They change the form, not the essence. The essence is to eliminate the Cuban system. What they are doing now is to change the form by engaging in the activities you listed. It should be pointed out that a Cuban diplomat in Washington, Ariel Ricardo—and this is reported by THE MIAMI HERALD—has said that the proposal the United States reportedly is to make on 20 May is unacceptable because it represents an encroachment on Cuban sovereignty.

[Martinez Pirez] We could talk much more about this issue, but we have run out of time. Anyway, I think that in the 20 May meeting between Aronson and rightist elements of the Cuban immigrants, Aronson will try to portray a somewhat new image with regard to Cuba, because in the midst of the Cuban immigration there are forces that are in favor of lifting the economic blockade against Cuba and of respecting Cuban sovereignty. So things are not so easy for Bush and Aronson. Recently a Miami poll established that Fidelism is very much alive.

Commentary Outlines Policy on Nuclear Weapons

PA1805184791 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 May 91

[Commentary by Roberto Morejon]

[Text] In today's world, where world powers continue to manufacture missiles with nuclear warheads, Third World countries find it difficult to join the list of nations that have unilaterally disarmed themselves. While peace and cooperation are achieved among the world powers, Third World countries are subject to threats and aggression if they refuse to accept the latest political and economic options.

The experience gained from the latest U.S. military interventions in Panama and Iraq justify the steps taken by small nations which, despite their limited resources, are compelled to set aside budgets for defensive purposes. Cuba is among those states because U.S. aggressiveness over the last 32 years has forced Cuban authorities to divert essential economic resources to guarantee their ability to retaliate in the event of an attack.

Cuban leaders think that as long as no effective steps are taken toward a general and complete disarmament, the security of small nations will only be ascribed to those that are capable of preparing themselves for their own defense. These principles apply to Cuba's position concerning conventional weapons disarmament and the abolishment of nuclear weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cuba endorses the various initiatives presented at international forums for the eradication of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of atomic energy. However, the obstacles which preclude its full admission to the Tlatelolco Treaty still prevail. In 1967, that document established the world's first nuclear-weapon-free region in Latin America and the Caribbean. Many states joined the treaty later on, and they have invited Cuba to become a signatory nation.

However, the persistent U.S. hostility; its refusal to give up the use of military weapons against Cuba; and the periodic arrival of boats equipped with nuclear weapons at Guantanamo Naval Base, represent obstacles that preclude Cuba's inclusion in the treaty.

Cuba recently became involved with, as a permanent observer, the work carried out by the Organization for the Abolishment of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, (?OPPANALC). This was interpreted as an eloquent sign of the island's intentions to eliminate that type of weapon throughout the world.

Havana Reports Noriega 'CIA's Man in Panama'

FL1605153091 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1155 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Now I would like to inform you, my good friends, of the latest political uproar that the main TV stations in Miami are reporting. Defense attorneys for former Panamanian president, former General Manuel Antonio Noriega, have revealed new documents that prove Noriega was the CIA's man in Panama as well as the manager of an $11 million special CIA fund. The documents were made public last night and consist of over 100 pages. Parts of the documents have been blotted out by the Justice Department security unit.

In these documents, Noriega's defense attorneys show that Noriega was chosen by the CIA to replace General Omar Torrijos, who died in 1981 in a highly suspicious airplane crash. Torrijos was perceived by the United States as a leftist who was dangerous to North American interests. The defense attorneys definitely say that Noriega delivered, to the North American espionage services, details on specific conferences and meetings that Torrijos had with various world leaders.

Certainly, these defense documents prove that the CIA made payments through Panama to the head of the Nicaraguan contras, Eden Pastora, with approval of then CIA Director William Casey. Certainly the CIA and the U.S. Army have admitted that they made payments to Noriega of some $300,000 during their prolonged cooperation with the former Panamanian president. Noriega, remember, before becoming president, was head of Panamanian Military Intelligence and; apparently, as the CIA and U.S. Army contend, cooperated over a long period with them.

The trial of Noriega for drug trafficking and money laundering is set for 22 July. The legal battle over documents and testimonies that implicate U.S. officials, however, has made the job of the judge more difficult and forced a new postponement, the third since the former Panamanian president appeared before Miami Judge William Hoeveler 4 January 1990 after surrendering himself to the invading Yankee forces in Panama.

Certainly, this invasion is still going on a long time after the so-called goal of capturing Gen. Noriega.

Dominica

High Billing Given for Political, Civil Rights

FL1805163991 Bridgetown CANA in English 1556 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 18, CANA—The Rastafarian community has taken issue with a report which gives Dominica a high billing for political and civil rights. Rastafarian spokesman Henry John-Baptiste said Dominica's rating should have been a lot lower.

The international magazine FREEDOM REVIEW in its 1991 "Freedom Around the World" edition, gives Dominica a rating of two for political rights and rated it one—the top grade—for civil liberties, on a scale of one to seven. The country ended up with an overall 1.5 rating.

But John-Baptiste said a more appropriate rating would be a four, considering the treatment of Rastafarians by the authorities. "There is a policy of a ban being placed on non-Dominican Rastafarians from entering the country, and that is contrary to the Passport and Immigration Ordinance, Chapter 157," he said.

He said the ordinance was contrary to the Dominica Constitution and the universal declaration of human rights. "That is one of our primary concerns," the Rastafarian said. "Additionally, there is the violation of our religious rights." This was a reference to the practice of the authorities to cut off the "dread locks" (hair) of Rastafarians sent to prison.

Attorney General Jenner Armour sees the report as tangible proof that "democracy is alive and well in Dominica."

Grenada

Trade Officials To Request CET Exemptions

FL2005130491 Bridgetown CANA in English 1518 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, May 19, CANA—Grenada trade officials will shortly request exemptions from the Caribbean Community (Caricom) [Caribbean Common Market] Common External Tariff (CET) to relieve price increases since the island implemented the tariff May 1.

"There are some items which will be taken to Caricom to seek a waiver of the CET on them, especially basic foodstuffs," director of trade, Lucia Andall said. But businessmen here say they are surprised by the present decision by the government, since the Chamber of Industry and Commerce had months ago submitted to the government data on expected price increases as a result of the implementation of the CET. The CET imposes import duties on extra-regional goods to encourage the expansion of regional agricultural and industrial production and trade.

Since the tariff was implemented here, the price of onions, potatoes, sugar, flour, pharmaceuticals, and other commodities has increased, while the price of industrial vehicles has gone down.

"I find it strange that all of a sudden (the officials) find that it is necessary to refer to the Caricom secretariat with a list of items.... when they have had a very long time to study the impact," businessman Allan Bierzynski said.

According to Bierzynski, the impact of the CET on the standard of living here was known four months prior to implementation. The Chamber of Industry and Commerce gave the Finance Ministry a study of the cost of living changes, he said.

Several organizations here, including the Trades Union Council, the chamber, and opposition parties have said the government needs to make internal adjustments to offset the changes resulting from the tariff. A major target is a 10 per cent surcharge on extra- regional goods previously in place here. Former Prime Minister Ben Jones told a press conference that the failure to remove the surcharge has led to double taxation.

Bierzynski said the government had failed to make internal adjustments, as recommended by the OECS [Organization of Eastern Caribbean States] economic affairs secretariat, to cushion the effects of the CET. "Now all of a sudden they are finding that there are these items which they think will cause undue hardship and they are looking for suspension of the duty," he said.

Haiti

Preval Asks Officials To Propose Appointees

FL1705234591 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] On the subject of public administration and justice reforms, a communique from the office of Prime Minister Rene Preval asks for senators, deputies, mayors, Communal Section Administration Council [CASEC] members, workers organizations, peasants groups, human rights organizations, etc. to submit lists nominating individuals in their respective areas for appointment as communal police agents, section chiefs, justices of peace, public prosecutors, and deputy public prosecutors. The lists, he said, should be sent by 31 May to the Interior and National Defense secretary in the Western Department, or to the individual delegates of the other eight departments.

Many hands lighten the load, he says.

Signed, Rene Preval, Prime Minister.

Vincent Denies Responsibility for Regala Escape

FL1705231191 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] Yesterday, 16 May, was Justice Minister Bayard Vincent's turn to make an appearance before the Senate. He was asked many questions concerning the functioning of Haiti's justice system.

One subject of particular interest was the arrest warrant issued for former General Williams Regala, who has not yet been apprehended. The minister responded that if Regala has not yet turned himself in, he, Minister Vincent, is not responsible for this problem. He suggested that Regala may have used the influence of his former position to help him escape the country. [passage omitted]

KOBAL Threatens To Block Road, Calls For Unity

FL1705222891 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Report by Saint-Marc correspondent Marc-Andre Raphael]

[Excerpt] The Confederation of the Lower Artibonite Organization [KOBAL] has set today, 17 May, as the absolute deadline for the government to answer their demands, raised during a meeting between KOBAL and members of the prime minister's cabinet on Sunday, 12 May. If no answer is forthcoming, KOBAL, according to spokesman Peguy Maitre, intends to block Artibonite on Monday, 20 May, for five hours until the people's government, working toward openness, clarity, justice, and participation, answers their demands.

KOBAL has launched a call for unity to all organizations wishing to unify, to all organizations who do not yet know what KOBAL is, an invitation to discuss and ask questions on all that is not clear, because now is not the time for division and disagreement among organizations which are actually seeking the same goals: freedom and respect for everyone, so that the dark forces do not get a foothold among them again. [passage omitted]

Haitian Tortured to Death in Dominican Republic

FL1805013491 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1600 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Five organizations for the defense of human rights demand the intervention of the Aristide-Preval government to halt abusive treatment suffered by compatriots in the Dominican Republic, following the death of a young Haitian man on 24 April. According to these organizations, the victim, Joubert Pierre, 19 years old, was arrested on April 20 in Boca Chica, sugar-producing zone of the Dominican Republic, under the false accusation of stealing a gas container.

The young man was dead on 24 April, in a police station where he was held, as a result of torture suffered during his detention, according to these organizations. The permanent commission for the Braseros [as heard] asked Prime Minister Rene Preval to obtain damages for the victim's family.

Jamaica

Manley Meets With Bush, Comments on Talks

FL1705142691 Bridgetown CANA in English 0002 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] President George Bush is said to be encouraged by the efforts of the nations of the Caribbean community at deepening and widening the integration process.

His press spokesman said Bush spoke about the integration movement during talks this week with Jamaica leader Michael Manley.

Bush was also said to be looking forward to the successful completion of negotiations on a Caribbean/U.S. bilateral framework agreement on the Enterprise of the Americas Initiative [EAI].

Manley told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY that he discussed Caricom's [Caribbean Common Market] position on the EAI - a new U.S. investment and debt relief programme - with President Bush and Vice President Dan Quayle.

Manley said he emphasized the importance of the initiative to Caricom member countries and at the same time identified some of the concerns of the region.

Street Vendors Protest Against Duty Rates

FL1705185591 Bridgetown CANA in English 1742 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 17, CANA—Nearly two thousand Informal Commercial Importers (ICI) - called higglers here - marched through the streets of the capital, Kingston, Friday to protest against the government's decision to remove concessional duty rates on goods they import.

The higglers also threatened to take their protests to every parish capital throughout the country to show they had "a just case".

The demonstrators carried placards and chanted "we want justice" as they blocked roads in the main shopping areas of downtown Kingston. They also marched to the offices of the minister of finance, P.J. Patterson.

Last week Patterson announced that higglers would be required to pay the same duty rates as other importers in keeping with agreements with international lending agencies. The existence of concessional rates, he added, had placed "non-ICI" importers and local producers at a competitive disadvantage.

Merchants in the main shopping areas of Kingston pulled down their store shutters during the march, watched by several policemen.

The higglers said they will boycott all flights out of Jamaica and will withdraw all payment of duties for goods now on the wharves.

The higglers travel mainly to Panama and Curacao to shop for items to sell in Jamaica. According to industry and commerce minister, Hugh Small, statistics indicated that in 1988 and 1989 the ICIs imported goods to the value of US20 million and US36 million dollars respectively.

Decision on Duty Rates Postponed

FL1805002291 Bridgetown CANA in English
2145 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, May 17, CANA—The Jamaican Government will not remove concessionary duty rates on goods imported by informal commercial importers on Monday as planned, president of the Sidewalk Vendors Association, Dunstan Whittingham, said.

Ministry of Finance officials could not be reached for comment, but, according to Whittingham, the government had decided to postpone implementation of the decision pending further discussions between the government and the informal importers, known here as higglers.

The announcement followed a morning of protests on Friday by about 2,000 higglers. Last week the government announced bringing the rates in line with established businesses, in keeping with agreements with the World Bank.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Opposition Labor Party Experiences New Vigor

FL1705200991 Bridgetown CANA in English
1935 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 17, CANA—The opposition St. Vincent and the Grenadines Labour Party is experiencing renewed political vigour following almost two years of dormancy, party leader Vincent Beache said.

He said the new thrust follows an evaluation of internal party organisation which focused on leadership, recruitment, a post-mortem of the 1989 general election in which the new democratic party won all 15 seats, and reorganisation of the party's youth and women's arms.

Beache said the party's low public profile was a conscious decision intended to allow the Vincentian public to experience politics without a vibrant parliamentary opposition. He said that strategy has paid off and it is now time for the party to reassert itself as a viable alternative to the present government.

The party's recruitment drive has been quiet but effective, and 'when the time is right, people will know who we have as candidates...We're not going to wait until the last minute,' Beache said.

On Friday, the party resumed publication of its mouthpiece, the STAR, which ceased circulation soon after the general election for financial and other reasons, Beache said. It has also resumed public meetings in various parts of the country.

Monty Maule Named House of Assembly Speaker

FL1705212091 Bridgetown CANA in English
1958 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Kingstown, St. Vincent, May 17, CANA - The St. Vincent and the Grenadines Government has named a senior administrator, Monty Maule, as the speaker of the House of Assembly, Prime Minister James Mitchell announced on Friday. Maule, a Methodist lay preacher, will be elected to the position at the next sitting of the House on June 3, Mitchell said.

He currently manages the container corporation which manufactures cardboard cartons for the local and export markets, is chairman of the country's water authority board, and chairman of the board of a land reform project at government-owned Orange Hill Estate.

Maule fills the position made vacant by the death April of speaker Emmanuel Fatima Adams.

Trinidad and Tobago

More Coups 'If There Is No Justice'

FL1705185191 Bridgetown CANA in English
1455 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 17, CANA—The man who led a coup attempt against the Trinidad and Tobago Government last July 27, Yasin Abu Bakr, told a court in which he is being tried for treason, murder and other charges, there will be similar attempts if there is no justice in the country.

Abu Bakr, who appeared with 18 other ringleaders of his Jamaat al Muslimeen organisation at the Chaguaramas Court in West Trinidad, was responding to Chief Magistrate Melville Baird's query whether he wished to cross-examine the first witness, Michael Cabellero.

Cabellero, is the cousin of Lorraine Cabellero who was shot dead during the storming of the Red House where Parliament sits, by members of the Jamaat.

But in a 10 minute outburst, Abu Bakr said there will be no cooperation from the Muslims unless there is observance of an amnesty that was granted to them by Acting President Emmanuel Carter during the six-day siege.

Abu Bakr said that during the hostage crisis at the Red House, his group showed mercy to Prime Minister A.N.R Robinson and other members of government. Robinson was shot in the leg when he refused to sign a document as he was ordered by the rebels.

"We had them under control. We showed them mercy. We gave them mercy and let them go. We let Robinson go," said Abu Bakr.

He accused the government of "betraying" them since the amnesty was not being observed. The high court has ruled that an amnesty does not remove guilt or negate the due process of law but the pardon would set aside the penalty for guilt.

Four witnesses gave evidence during Thursday's hearing.

Police Cleared in Death of Coup Leader's Stepson

FL1705185091 Bridgetown CANA in English 1432 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, May 17, CANA—A magistrate's inquest has cleared Trinidad and Tobago police of any guilt in the killing of the stepson of jailed rebel Muslim leader, Yasin Abu Bakr.

Coroner Nazrudeen Khan in the Tunapuna Magistrate's Court, in the country's east, on Thursday ruled "there are no grounds for suspecting anyone is guilty," in respect of Njisane Omawale's death during a shoot-out with the police last August 1.

The incident occured at Omawale's grandmother's home in Champ Fleur, east of Port-of-Spain on the same day a coup attempt led by Abu Bakr ended.

Abu Bakr and 113 members of his Jamaat al Muslimeen organisation are facing charges including murder and treason in connection with the coup attempt.

Khan labelled a witness, Nikka Gooding, as a "notorious liar" since the evidence given by Omawale's mother, Anisa Abu Bakr suggested Gooding could not have seen who shot the man who was a student of Howard University in Washington, DC.

Omawale's death was caused by gunshot wounds, but Khan said he was unable to state how and by whom the deceased received the injuries.

"I am of the opinion that no one can be held responsible," he said ending the inquest which started at the beginning of the month.

Government Pleased Congress Backs 'Fast Track'

PA1805041691 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] The Mexican Government has expressed its satisfaction with the U.S. Congress' strong support of the use of the fast track method in the eventual negotiations for a free trade agreement. In its weekly update on the negotiating process, the Commerce Secretariat issued a communique stating that the fast track method is fundamental for Mexico's participation in the negotiations. The Mexican Embassy is Washington also issued a communique stating that the Mexican Government is pleased with the decision made by the U.S. Congressional committees to reject the proposal against the fast track method.

Furthermore, Mexican Deputy Foreign Secretary Javier Barros Valero stated that the possible free trade agreement would strengthen Mexico's sovereignty, which is understood to mean a country's autonomy to ensure its basic needs. The Mexican private sector, represented by Juan Gallardo Thurlow at the negotiating committee, indicated that 100 sectorial studies have been completed to further the negotiations. Gallardo stated that the step taken by the U.S. Congress gives more certainty to the future of the negotiations, which will allow the country's economy to advance and to ready itself to confront the foreign market. In this context, Mexico can also include its recent agreement with the EEC, Mexico's entry into the Caribbean Basin Cooperation Program conference that is to be formalized in Singapore on 19 May, and the search for more cooperation with Central America, the Caribbean and, of course, with Latin America.

Meetings With U.S. Congressmen Viewed

PA1805042991 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0905 GMT 14 May 91

[Report by Joel Fernandez Santiago]

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The statements made by Republican Senator Phil Gramm a few days ago were like a blow to the stomach for the Mexican congressmen who were attending the Mexico-U.S. Interparliamentary Group meeting. Senator Gramm said that Mexico's debt has increased because of corruption and the irresponsible and inappropriate manner in which Mexican politicians have handled the financial support that his country has given Mexico. In an unbefitting, and not in the least legislative, manner that was aimed at showing Mexican incompetence, the Texas senator took a stance that could very well be the stance of many members of the U.S. Congress, where the possibility or impossibility of approving the fast track [preceding two words in English] to promptly solve the issue of a trilateral free trade treaty (or should we say an agreement for U.S. investments in Mexico) is being discussed.

Even though, generally speaking, this should ring a bell because of the tone and manner the Yankee congressmen have been using in dealing with bilateral matters, it is also true that for some time now these meetings have become a battleground for the two countries. This was proven during the 1986 meeting held in Colorado Springs. At that meeting, presided over by Antonio Riva Palacio Lopez [president of the Permanent Commission of the Union], after bitter discussions with the participating legislators and in light of the fact that Mexico's reasons were not desirable to the United States, the issuance of a joint communique that would show the U.S. inability to justify the use of aggression against illegal Mexicans and in matters related to drug trafficking was avoided. The same happened at a meeting in New Orleans two years later, in 1988. At that meeting the discussions ended with a feeling of failure by the United States in light of the Mexican defense that noted the ill-intentions, prejudices, and lack of information the United States had regarding Mexican affairs. At that time, however, all this contributed to the Mexicans' strengthening their position on the increase of drug use in the United States, where consumption is the main reason for production. Mexican Senator for Tabasco Salvador Neme Castillo, who presided over that meeting, accused the United States of promoting the consumption of drugs. He based his accusations on articles that appeared in the U.S. press, such as "Seedless" and "Marijuana Tips," recommending domestic production of the drug. This demonstration made the U.S. congressmen blush and "lower the tone" of their charges.

Despite all this, we see the same things happening today. Political affairs and economic interests have taken precedence over legislative matters in light of the already imminent approval of the sacrosanct fast track [preceding two words in English] for the signing by the Mexican side of a free trade trilateral treaty, even though the Canadians are still not convinced of the virtues and advantages of the one they signed with the U.S. Government.

It is, however, interesting to carefully review what was said at the meeting in light of the fact that it places on the negotiating table practically all issues related to the security or insecurity (stability or instability; democracy or lack of democracy) of Mexico as a neighbor and commercial partner of a country to which we are bound by physical ties yet unbound by long and old histories of mistakes, meddling, looting, dismembering, and abuse by a nation that has become wealthy "surely" as a result of the incompetence of many Mexican politicians.

The U.S. citizens view Mexico's historic and reasonable rancor toward that nation with disdain, even contempt. It is within the context of this lopsided situation (reduced to a situation of homosexuality thanks to Phil Gramm) that viewpoints are being exchanged on foreign debt, migrant farm workers, illegal aliens, drug trafficking, and even domestic policies.

This was the case when the indescribable Gramm stated that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] is the only Mexican political party with a "project." Meanwhile, the venerable Eligio "Kika" De La Garza [not further identified] boasted among local reporters of his Mexican origin and does not miss a chance, behind closed doors, to attack our country—his country—regarding various aspects of its relations with the United States.

Mr. De La Garza (better known among Mexican journalists by a nickname we cannot print because of its ambivalent nature) had no qualms in saying that the death of Mexicans on the U.S. border in the hands of U.S. guards, something mentioned by the Mexican legislators, are an exaggeration because "there were only a few dead," according to what he said, although he later tried six times to solve his slip of the tongue.

The truth is that, as usual, these meetings bring out these terrible differences that make both countries maintain irreconcilable differences, which are the result of long struggles and an even worse lack of understanding.

The origins are historic. Teacher Josefina Vaquez said: "When we read news about Mexico in U.S. newspapers, it seems as if Mexico is only a hindrance to its neighbor, allowing drug trafficking and the invasion of illegal Mexicans into the United States. The south also perceives as a threat all that comes from the north, something which also has a long history."

This mutual lack of understanding is based on upbringing: One side is Calvinist and the other Catholic. The way things are seen, the way life itself is interpreted, and man's task on earth are seen very differently by both. That is why there will never be a reconciliation between the countries.

That is why despite the interparliamentary meetings between Mexico and the United States, accusations and disagreements will continue. Mexico and the United States are hopelessly united. Mexico and the United States are hopelessly separate.

Nevertheless, the United States does not have the minimum respect or intention to understand its neighbor to the south, a country with which he is to share the present as well as the future, despite everything.

Surely, our country has had serious structural and administrative deficiencies, but it's always easier to see someone else's faults. The United States has not risked settling its own deficiencies, where democracy is summed up as only two and indivisible political parties, which does not allow any alien ideas.

Dissidents in that country have been ferociously subdued. Such was the case during the McCarthy persecutions and later with Angela Davis, an instigator of change for a more socialist opening in her country.

The U.S. economy is in trouble (one needs to see its inflation rate). In many instances its economic difficulties are due to the U.S. effort to lead the world, an effort that includes the U.S.' war economy. Unemployment and the evident poverty in large cities, such as New York, Chicago, and many others, the tremendous increase in the use of drugs "to escape reality," the economic dependency as the result of having large amounts of money invested abroad, among other things, are symptoms of the structural imbalance that they are unwilling to accept as their own weaknesses. "Respect me, even though you don't love me," seems to be the general slogan of today's Americans.

Anyway, the Mexican and U.S. legislators met once again to exhange views. Neither of the sides was convinced of the others' arguments. The painful affront is still present in the Mexican soul, while in that of the victor the matter has been completely forgotten. What's more, it does not matter.

Foreign Secretary Solana Begins Far East Tour

PA1805132391 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana has started on a working tour through the Pacific Asian countries. Solana will visit Singapore, the ROK, China, Hong Kong, and Japan.

In Singapore, Solana will sign documents for Mexico's formal entry into the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference. In Seoul, Korea, he will meet with the president of the Republic of Korea. In China, the foreign relations secretary will meet with the president, the prime minister, and the foreign minister to analyze the bilateral agenda. During his visit to Hong Kong, Solana will meet with political, business, and financial leaders.

In Japan, Solana will meet with the prime minister to evaluate the results of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's visit in June 1990. Solana and the Japanese prime minister will also evaluate bilateral relations and projects on mutual investments, technological exchange, contamination control in the valley of Mexico, commercial openness, energy, and finance.

Foreign Relations Secretary Fernando Solana will return to Mexico on 28 May.

Safe-Conduct Granted Panamanian Banker 'Victory'

PA1805155291 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0127 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Mexico City, 14 May (NOTIMEX)— The Mexican Foreign Secretariat (SRE) has stated that the safe-conduct granted by Panamanian authorities to former banker Rafael Arosemena is a victory in the constant struggle to maintain the validity of the right to asylum.

Raul Valdes, the SRE's general director for Latin America and the Caribbean, said that the Mexican Government, loyal to its historical principles, was pleased with Panama's decision to grant the safe-conduct to Arosemena.

Arosemena, Valdes explained, sought asylum at the Mexican Embassy in Panama on 1 March 1990, adding: "Diplomatic asylum is a basic principle of our foreign policy."

He noted that "Mexico, a country that has always supported the use of diplomatic means to solve international controversies, feels that the granting of the safe-conduct to the Panamanian citizen is a victory in the constant struggle to maintain the validity of the right to asylum."

It is also tangible proof, Valdes stressed, that strict compliance with international law is the best guarantee for

relations among states. Valdes accompanied Arosemena, former director of Panama's National Bank, when he entered Mexico.

The official explained that Arosemena's safe-conduct was obtained after lengthy and intense diplomatic efforts by the SRE and the Mexican Embassy in that country.

He said that the Mexican position was based on the convention governing the right to diplomatic asylum which was established at the 10th Pan American Conference held in Caracas on 28 March 1954. Mexico and Panama are both signatories to that agreement, which establishes the right of the state granting the asylum to qualify the nature of the crime or reasons for the refugee's persecution.

PRI Creates Civic, Political Foundation

PA1905162691 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 15 May 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] The Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] will make use of the work of the newly established Change 21 Foundation civic association that will be headed by Queretaro Mayor Mariano Palacios, in order to contribute toward solving current Mexican problems and to preserve its new political profile. The new organization consists of scholars, intellectuals, journalists, writers, businessmen, and politicians who, according to the explanation given by PRI President Luis Donaldo Colosio, will need to explore new ways of strengthening the country's freedom, democracy, justice, and sovereignty.

After saying that the time has arrived to broaden the dialogue with society, Colosio said that the PRI wants quality politics, with room for criticism and self-criticism.

[Colosio] "Because the PRI wants quality politics, the idea emerged to establish a foundation dedicated to economic, social, and political study, which would augment the various efforts toward transformation now being exerted in the country, i.e., the new movements and the new participants. It must be an institution dedicated to planning the future, an institution that sponsors criticism and self-criticism."

In addition, Rafael Rodriguez Barrera, secretary general of the PRI National Executive Council, explained that the Change 21 Foundation is in charge of complementing the PRI's reforms to increase their importance in accordance with the long-range plans which support them. He said that the new organization will also be responsible for improving the level of the PRI's political culture and recruiting future cadres that the party requires.

He added that the idea is that the PRI's publications and instruction should not simply be the means to transmit doctrines; instead, they should be ardent and coherent expressions of the party ideology so that concepts may be revised and modernized, thus preventing a lapse into personal authoritarianism or dogmatism.

Change 21 Foundation President Mariano Palacios Alcocer said that the organization under his responsibility is pledged to the party and its ideals, but it also assumes its own responsibilities with Mexico's democratic renewal.

[Palacios] "We will be the instrument that helps the party in the theoretical conception of its tasks. We will also be the party's instrument in the search for alternatives to Mexico's democracy."

Palacios Alcocer emphasized that the Change 21 Foundation will be an entity dedicated to reflection and analysis to improve the country's political life, using the opportunities granted by the system of freedoms we enjoy.

Morales Appointed New Fisheries Secretary

PA2005043891 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Guillermo Jimenez Morales was appointed new fisheries secretary to replace Maria de los Angeles Moreno, who will participate in the electoral process.

El Salvador

Government, FMLN To Meet in Caracas 24 May

PA1705183891 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] United Nations— It was confirmed here that the next round of peace talks between the Salvadoran Government and the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, will begin in Caracas on 24 May.

The announcement was made after a message from UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar was read at a private session of the UN Security Council. In his message Perez de Cuellar urged the immediate approval of his proposal to send a group of UN observers for El Salvador, ONUSAL, to guarantee respect for human rights.

Perez de Cuellar stressed the progress that has been made as a result of the negotiations held under UN auspices since the parties involved in the armed conflict signed an agreement on human rights in San Jose, Costa Rica, on 26 July 1990. ONUSAL's mission will be verifying compliance with those agreements.

Perez de Cuellar added that at a procedural meeting held this week in Mexico City, which was attended by his special representative Alvaro de Soto, both sides agreed to hold the next round of talks in Caracas, where they have met previously, beginning on 24 May.

Sources from the UN Security Council are confident that the establishment of ONUSAL will be approved either today or Monday at the latest. This commission, according to the UN secretary general, will contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation in El Salvador and the creation of a favorable climate for the negotiations.

Merino Expresses Doubts

PA1805193191 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 May 91

[Text] Vice President Francisco Merino has said that the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, has not shown the willingness to reach peace agreements in the negotiating process that has been conducted with UN mediation for over one year now.

According to Merino, the government feels that it is urgent to reach a cease-fire agreement in the shortest possible time. Within that context, Merino reiterated that it is necessary to expedite the peace process in the country.

[Begin Merino recording] So far the FMLN has not given any clear signal of its willingness to reach peace agreements. On the contrary, there are several examples of agreements that have not been complied with. Logically, the fact that they have not been serious and responsible toward agreements of less importance is worrisome, as it makes one wonder what their attitude will be toward more serious commitments, such as a cease-fire agreement.

I believe that the next meeting should not last too long, and that the issue of a cease-fire should be directly discussed in order to reach an agreement in that regard. Obviously, that would be the beginning of a new phase to establish the mechanisms and timetable for the implementation of the various agreements and to implement the process for the FMLN's demobilization.

By this I mean that once a cease-fire agreement is reached, the FMLN, which has operated as a clandestine organization, must be recognized, and the United Nations must verify that it respects those agreements, at which time the deadlines and terms for disarmament and demobilization will be established. [end recording]

Issues from the guerrillas' position that conditions be met before the suspension of acts of sabotage against the national electrical system to that of more flexibility from the government and Armed Forces on a cease-fire and the ratification of constitutional amendments, Vice President Merino said that those factors could extend the talks process.

[Begin Merino recording] We cannot conceive having to negotiate the FMLN's suspension of sabotage on the electrical system. Therefore, this factor would halt and cause a delay in the peace process. The FMLN's commitment is clear: signing a general cease-fire agreement, as a contribution to the peace process. The FMLN should not try to obtain more significant concessions, such as the ratification of the constitutional amendments in exchange for suspending acts of sabotage on the power lines. A cease-fire agreement should include ending acts of terrorism, sabotage, kidnapping, murder, and harassment. Logically, this is [words indistinct] amending the Constitution to make it more consonant with a democratic society that will include aspects presented by the FMLN in its Caracas agenda. [End recording]

Minister Criticizes Violence

PA1805173491 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 15 May 91 p 1

[Text] Oscar Santamaria, minister of the Presidency and Government Dialogue Commission spokesman, stated that "there is no justification for the increase in violence, and therefore the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] should reflect and consider the fact that in the end the hopes for peace must be backed by a different kind of attitude."

Minister Santamaria, quoting an official communique, added that "we believe that the Salvadoran people are the primary judges of this since they have expressed their desire for an appropriate climate for the agreements to be signed in Mexico."

In reference to the cease-fire, Minister Santamaria pointed out that we do not see it as being a long way off; it is something that has been planned for. Keep in mind that it was one of the issues discussed in Mexico. The topic was discussed in the beginning, while later on the constitutional reforms were given priority treatment. The cease-fire issue was never set aside." [no opening quotation marks as published]

Santamaria added: All issues of the negotiations are complex and difficult, and the cease-fire issue is no exception. I believe that the next meeting between government and FMLN representatives will entail long hours of work and discussion, but this will not affect our objectives while searching for the peace the Salvadoran people so greatly desire.

Minister Santamaria said that the cease-fire issue would be dealt with on a priority basis at the next meeting, and it must be on a short-term basis in accordance with the Geneva and Caracas agreements.

Government Communique on FMLN Death Threats

PA1905141791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 2200 GMT 17 May 91

[Communique issued by the national government in San Salvador on 17 May]

[Text] The Salvadoran Government expresses its concern over death threats made by FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] elements against justices of the peace and municipal judges in Usulutan Department. This FMLN terrorist attitude is not only an affront to human rights, but conspires against the peace process taking place at the negotiating table.

The death threats received by the officials continue to cast doubt over the FMLN's seriousness and political resolve as regards the process under way to attain peace through political action.

The Salvadoran Government feels that if the FMLN resorts to the murdering and kidnapping of judges and justices of the peace once more this would endanger the negotiating process. In addition, such activities would send a clear signal that the FMLN intends to use blackmail as an instrument of pressure to express unilateral and unacceptable positions at the negotiating table.

The Salvadoran Government, when denouncing this FMLN attitude, calls on FMLN members to reflect on the serious consequences that could result from the death or kidnapping of public officials, who in no way can be considered as military targets.

[Signed] Government of the Republic of El Salvador
[Dated] San Salvador, 17 May 1991

FMLN Detonates Bomb Near Shopping Center

PA1705225591 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2204 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] San Salvador, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)—Military sources have reported that a Salvadoran Army corporal was killed and seven other soldiers injured this afternoon when a bomb exploded near a shopping center in Ciudad Merliot, some 10 km west of San Salvador.

The sources said that the explosive device was placed by urban units of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) in a soda truck that was parked near a Police Training Center guard post. The guard post provides security for the shopping center.

The dead policeman was identified as Luis Benitez. His body was examined by judicial authorities at the site, while the injured were taken to hospitals by humanitarian organizations.

Meanwhile, military sources reported that FMLN urban units also attacked a Finance Police guard post in Soyapango, on the eastern outskirts of San Salvador, injuring one policeman.

FMLN States Position on Peasant Land Seizures

PA1905214491 (Clandestine) Radio Farabaundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Today we learned about a government communique referring to land seizures that peasants have carried out in 40 farms located in eight departments throughout the country. Regarding this communique, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] reports on and strongly condemns the government's position. Instead of offering a solution to the landless peasants' critical problem, it only offers them violent evictions or arbitrary arrests [words indistinct] the seizures are sponsored by the FMLN to cause more problems in the country.

Mr. Cristiani, the problems already exist and they are the result of the unjust distribution of wealth, wealth produced thanks to the peasants' work but which benefits a few exploiters. The problems are the result of the state's social neglect of the landless peasants and the government's repression of the peasants' demand. In its communique the government again uses the constitution [words indistinct] to justify its repression of the peasants.

We warn the government and landowners that the FMLN will let no action against the workers go unpunished; and our weapons will give an appropriate answer if the Army dares to perpetrate a massacre—like the many other massacres it has perpetrated in recent years. Therefore, this is the FMLN position concerning the government communique on the land seized by peasants in 40 farms located in eight departments throughout the country.

Rebel Radio Comments

PA1905042191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 18 May 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] We have just heard the government communique and would like to comment. We believe that today Cristiani has outdone his cynicism. He has spoken out against the takeover of unused land, land that has been abandoned by the rich who live in Miami. The communique is against the just and legitimate right of the peasants to own a tract of land to cultivate food, in other words to feed their children, to grow food for their family's survival.

What cynicism from the Presidential Palace and Cristiani. We have just heard the communique that says that the latest land takeovers in the manner Radio Venceremos recently mentioned are part of a scheme intended to have

peasants confront the authorities in order to increase the level of violence. We have quoted the Presidential Palace communique.

This insinuation is so clumsy that we will not even bother to ask the Presidential Palace for the Radio Venceremos recording of this. But we can reaffirm what we have already said: The property takeovers are due to the schemes of injustice and ravaging of land that families such as Cristiani's, the 14 oligarchic families, and others have inflicted on the Salvadoran peasantry. What we have said is that the ravaging of land, the stockpiling of the country's best cultivable lands, by people with foreign surnames who now rule our fatherland is one of the causes of this war.

We reiterate that while the land problems continue unresolved—the agrarian problem, the land problem—there cannot be peace in a society submitted to such great social differences, to such great imbalances in the distribution of land.

We asked Cristiani for more seriousness during these negotiations. He should not blame a Radio Venceremos station commentary for social facts that have been stated for 70 years in a popular nationalist cry that says the land belongs to whoever tills it. The land should not be for a group of people with foreign surnames such as Cristiani or the Llach's.

Murder of Opposition Candidate 'Condemnable'

PA1905031391 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 17 May 91

[Station commentary: "The Beast Is Mortally Wounded"]

[Text] Just when negotiations were resumed to discuss the Army issue, the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] military regime murdered a former opposition candidate.

Isaac Martinez, a political leader from the Democratic Convergence, was kidnapped, tortured without end, and finally murdered yesterday in death-squad style.

In addition to being a condemnable provocation to the negotiations and to the democratic forces in the country, this is a clear symptom that the Arena and the military leadership do not want and will not be able to adapt themselves to a new civilian society where concerted agreements and political pluralism set the rules of the game.

Without doubt, Arena and the top military leaders can only remain in power by terrorizing society with these types of incidents and with these procedures, which are deliberately carried out by a military death squad apparatus.

The murder of Isaac Martinez is a clear signal for us to predict that Roberto Angulo will be the National Assembly president, who will pass laws with a pistol on his table. The murder of Isaac Martinez confirms our charges that Cristiani is sheltering the death squads, which are still visiting barracks and Army offices with impunity.

The forces of the nation and the U.S. Congress should ask themselves why military aid is being requested by Cristiani. The Farabundo Marti Liberation Front [FMLN] strongly condemns this political crime and it directly accuses Colonel Jose Humberto Gomez of being the mastermind of this murder in the 2d military region, which is under the command of the aforementioned officer.

The quick installation of the human rights verification mission and the truth commission are national demands, which Cristiani, Defense Minister Rene Emilio Ponce, and the United States should stop obstructing.

Even though the beast is wounded because of the progress made in the negotiations, the FMLN will not end the war and will not sign a cease-fire if the dirty war waged by Arena and the military is allowed to continue.

Investigations May Delay Jesuit Murder Trial

PA1805041491 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0106 GMT 14 May 91

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 13 May (ACAN-EFE)—Judicial sources today said that the opening of new investigations to determine the masterminds of the murder of six Jesuits committed in 1989 could delay the trial of 10 Salvadoran soldiers.

The Fourth Criminal Court, which is in charge of this case, today announced that probably this week it will open investigations into whether there are other perpetrators and masterminds of the murder of six Jesuit priests and two women that occurred on 16 November 1989.

The same sources said that although 10 soldiers linked to the crime will be tried in the upcoming months, such trials could be delayed by the new phase of investigations because they will have to wait until the trial of others implicated in the crimes is defined.

They added that defenders and accusers must be notified of this decision and, as of the notification date, they will have eight days to file new evidence for or against the accused.

During the new phase, the judge will compile all the evidence filed and, after analyzing it, determine whether there are other perpetrators and masterminds of the murders.

The judicial sources said that Judge Ricardo Zamora, who heads the court handling this case, will attach to the documents on this crime the written statement filed before him last week by former prosecutors Sidney Blanco and Henry Campos accusing the Salvadoran Armed Forces High Command of "neglect."

Blanco and Campos resigned in January, claiming that they had been "pressured" by the Public Prosecutor's Office, but were later hired as private prosecutors for the trial by the Society of Jesus and relatives of the murdered. [passage omitted]

Station Comments on Truth Commission's Efforts

PA1905185091 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 14 May 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The implementation of the Commission of Truth has delivered an extremely heavy blow to those responsible

for the despicable murder of the Jesuit priests. General Rene Emilio Ponce himself and all the military high command are implicated as masterminding this murder, as the lawyers for the plaintiff have recently charged. That is why they are against the Mexico Agreements and say that the Armed Forces cannot be scratched out by the stroke of a pen. We have even heard the generals say that the Commission of Truth has no legal power to try anyone, and they threaten the private lawyers who are handling the Jesuit case.

The murder of the Central American University [UCA] priests, which they coolly planned and ordered in total impunity, has become a nightmare, a ghost that brings them within the reaches of justice, stripped of their impunity. That is why they are opposed to the agreements and seek to break up the negotiations, combining their obstacles to the peace efforts with the most gigantic military offensive effort against the areas under our control.

Terrorized by the real possibility that the truth about their criminal responsibility may become publicly known, the high command, Ponce, and Cristiani have ordered Colonel Guillermo Alfredo Benavides to remain silent and to trust in the high command to guarantee his prompt freedom. Our reports indicate that the high command has asked Col. Benavides to assume complete responsibility, without implicating any of the masterminds, because the Armed Forces and the government will soon promote a pardon that will favor even Captains Mena Sandoval and Marcelo Cruz Cruz, who took up their weapons against oppression. According to the promise made by the high command, the amnesty will include Col. Benavides himself, who will thus gain his freedom.

The high command has told Col. Benavides to remain confident that he will only be in prison a short time—even though it is only symbolically and under special conditions of security and comfort—before he is released. Col. Benavides might be relatively innocent, because behind him are Cristiani, Ponce, and the high command as the masterminds. Benavides only carried out an order.

The Commission of Truth, established under the Mexico Agreements, will uncover the responsibility of the true murderers. That is why the murderers have set out to cause the failure of the negotiations.

The United Nations and the international community must not allow the efforts to break this pattern of impunity to be scuttled by a group of criminals. The social and political forces of the country must also contribute by demanding respect for their aspirations of justice and for the Mexico Agreements, so that political agreements are reached and we may soon sign a cease-fire.

Captured FMLN Militants on Dialogue Advice

PA1805045191 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 17 May 91 p 36

[Excerpt] Two Farabundo Marti National Liberation [FMLN] guerrillas captured by the Finance Police have said that the FMLN receives advice on the dialogue process from the Permanent Committee for the National Debate [CPDN].

The two rebels said that FMLN is using the dialogue as an strategic measure to further exploit the current crisis to produce the creation of a single political party.

The two rebels have been identified as Carlos Antonio Ramirez and Ernesto Lovos Galdamez. They were arrested after a careful investigation on 8 May at 0550 at 3d Avenue, between 4th East Street and 6th East Street, in Nueva San Salvador.

The two said they were members of the People's Liberation Forces. Ramirez was responsible for logistics in the western area and his nom de guerre is Efrain. Lovos Galdamez's nom de guerre is Juan. He said he was recruited and indoctrinated by an ANTA [expansion unknown] promoter known as Doroteo Tito Perez. [passage omitted]

Guatemala

Next Round of Talks With URNG Postponed

PA1705201191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1712 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)—Guatemalan Foreign Minister Alvaro Arzu announced today that the second round of peace talks between the government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) guerrillas has been postponed for 15 days, until the first half of June.

The second round of talks between the government and URNG delegations had been initially scheduled to take place in Mexico on 25, 26, 27, and 28 May. Arzu stated the reason for the delay is that the moderator of the talks, National Reconciliation Commission Chairman Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada, has not recovered from an operation he underwent recently.

The first round of talks was held in late April, also in Mexico.

National Defense Minister Mendoza Interviewed

PA1805194291 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 May 91 pp 2, 64

[Interview with National Defense Minister General Luis Enrique Mendoza Garcia by unidentified reporter at the National Palace in Guatemala City; date not given]

[Text] [Reporter] What do you have to say about the "Officers of the Mountain?"

[Mendoza] I am really surprised that newspapers would ask questions about a group of anonymous people with no morals or ethics and a complete lack of professionalism.

There are only two types of Army officers: Those who retire with honor and those of us on active duty.

Active officers are professionals who carry out the country's laws while performing a complex mission. They act

with principles and values that uphold their true service vocation for the benefit of Guatemala. True officers do not waver from their beliefs and will never act with a political purpose in mind. We will always be at the service of the fatherland and all Guatemalans.

[Reporter] What is behind the threats made against trade union and political leaders?

[Mendoza] Politics is behind these threats and they should be analyzed very carefully. I do not know where they are coming from, but we need to see what is behind these threats because one can clearly see their tendency to hinder President Serrano Elias' peace process.

Guatemalans are breathing peace. The dialogue has brought optimism because rebel activities do not let the government attend to urgent problems which, in turn, prevents the development of communities in the interior.

[Reporter] Do you think that the exile of labor and political leaders will affect our country's image?

[Mendoza] Not at all, because the international community is aware that they have received anonymous threats. The Guatemalan Government's firm commitment to attaining peace and tranquility, strengthening the democratic process, and guaranteeing respect for human rights is well known.

The Army, as well as the other government institutions, views the advancement of talks with the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) in a positive light. There is willingness to support the government's decisions and end the disagreements of the past.

Army commanders are participating in the talks and we can expect controversy, because each group has its own ideas about democratization and human rights.

The topics to be discussed at the second meeting with the URNG are congruent with current laws.

[Reporter] The URNG has demanded the elimination of Civilian Self-Defense Committees. How does the Army feel about this?

[Mendoza] Those committees were created as a temporary measure. They initially worked as community development groups. In other words, they were initially created to help with the construction of a church, bridge, potable water project, and so forth.

Later, in view of the threats posed by rebel groups that constantly harassed towns, those committees were turned into Civilian Self-Defense Patrols (PAC), which are constitutionally known today as Civilian Self-Defense Committees.

Those groups emerged voluntarily in defense of their communities, and then requested and obtained the Army's support. The Army believes that once the armed attacks are over, those committees could return to their initial activities and work for the development of their communities.

Death Threats Leading Some To Leave Country

PA1905191491 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 0345 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] The number of Guatemalans who have left the country since 13 May on account of death threats and other forms of intimidation has increased. The most recent case involves seven members of a group known by the acronym Fundagua [Foundation for Rural Areas Projects in Guatemala], who left for Canada on Tuesday, 14 May.

The foundation's president, politician Luis Zurita, was the first to exile himself on Monday. He was followed by Dr. Juan Alberto Segura, Engineer Edgar Virgilio Ayala, Jose Urbina Castillo, Manuel de Jesus Castro, Maria Magdalena Villatoro de Castro, Walter Alejandro Guilman, and Aida Consuelo Aguirre de Guilman—all of them members of Fundagua.

Another professional, Dr. Doris Arriaza, left the country for the United States after reporting a kidnap attempt. She is the leader of the Comptrollership General's labor union.

Honduras

Government Meets With Peasants, Promises Land

PA1905214591 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 May 91 p 38

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The government of President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on 16 May promised representatives of peasant organizations that it would increase the budget of the National Agrarian Institute (INA), transfer lands in the hands of Banadesa [National Agricultural Development Bank] and Conadi [National Investment Corporation] to the Institute for Agrarian Reform, and distribute more than 300 manzanas of land directly to peasants to stop the wave of violence in the countryside and encourage national production.

During a meeting with peasant leaders and INA, Banadesa, and Natural Resources officials that lasted almost four hours, Callejas promised to create a tripartite commission that would visit the interior to learn about the problems faced by the agricultural sector and to analyze the credit situation.

In addition, the executive branch will be in charge of paying for the costs of the trial against those responsible for the massacre of five peasants in Arizona, Atlantida on 3 May. Peasant organizations accuse Colonel Leonel Galindo of masterminding the massacre.

Rafael Alegria, director of the National Central Organization of Rural Workers (CNTC), told EL TIEMPO that peasant leaders made it clear to the president that they needed some 30,000 manzanas of land for this planting season, but Callejas said that problems in the agriculture sector must be discussed in a specific and concrete manner.

In this regard, the government promised to deliver in the shortest possible time more than 2,000 manzanas of land in the areas where more conflicts or violence may develop.

In addition, the authorities also promised to directly transfer to peasants 370 manzanas of land that belong to the National Agriculture and Livestock Center of the Natural Resources Ministry located in Comayagua.

The government will also give members of the CNTC lands that belong to the Conadi in the area of El Quebracho, Comayagua, which comprises nearly 700 manzanas of land. This area has been one of the most disputed zones, with more than five violent evictions by the authorities.

Some 500 manzanas of land belonging to Banadesa located in Olancho Department will be transferred to workers who are members of the National Union of Peasants (UNC).

The CNTC leader also said that 900 manzanas of land that belong to the Central Sugar Mill in Choluteca will be occupied by peasants who are members of the National Association of Honduran Peasants (ANACH).

Nahum Calix, head of the Coordinating Council of Honduran Peasant Organizations (COCOCH), said notification of the occupation will be sent to Attorney General Leonardo Matute Murillo so that he can transfer the lands, which was purchased from American Temistocles Ramirez, for agrarian reform purposes.

Calix said that President Callejas promised to increase the INA budget, money that will exclusively be used for agrarian reform purposes.

Calix said the institution's current budget is 20 million lempiras, and that it may be increased by 11 million, for a total of 31 million lempiras, the same amount that was included in the draft budget.

"The president has also told us that next Tuesday, 21 May, he will decide to possibly increase the INA budget for agrarian reform purposes," Calix said.

Finally, INA director Juan Ramon Martinez said the peasants were concerned about the incidents in Santa Barbara, and rank and file members have been asked to avoid confrontations among peasants and not to allow themselves to be used or manipulated by some groups interested in creating conflicts, such as property owners, creditors, or land owners.

Martinez said they will meet again on Thursday, 23 May, to continue discussing the problems.

Official Communique on Agua Caliente Incident

PA1805041391 Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 51

["Official communique" released by the Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate in Tegucigalpa on 14 May]

[Text] The Honduran Armed Forces Public Relations Directorate hereby reports the following to the local and international public.

1. A report of the inquiry conducted by a high-level commission, ordered by Luis Alonso Discua, Armed Forces commander in chief and brigadier general, on the 3 May incident in Agua Caliente, Arizona municipality, Atlantida Department, will be delivered to President Rafael Leonardo Callejas today.

2. As a result of the investigation, the Armed Forces arrested Jose Osman Ayala Urbina and Benjamin Ayala Membreno in La Virtud, Lempira Dpartment. The two men will handed over to the proper judicial authorities today. Actions to identify and then arrest other persons linked to this bloody incident will continue.

3. Lieutenant Colonel Leonel Arsecio Galindo Knudsen was turned over to the proper authority today so the degree of his alleged responsibility in the crime aimed against several people can be determined.

4. Gen. Discua has issued the following instructions, among others.

a. To carry out disarmament operations throughout the country to confiscate firearms forbidden for general use that have been illegally or irregularly obtained.

b. All brigade commands, as military regional commands, have been instructed to peacefully settle all agrarian conflicts in their respective regions jointly with the authorities of the National Agrarian Institute and the leadership of the peasant organizations.

c. An agrarian affairs commission has been put in charge of hearing the cases of military men, as either persons or as members of a legal entity, in inquiries to establish land ownership and to conduct business with the proper authorities of the National Agrarian Institute.

5. The right of Armed Forces members to legally acquire properties either as persons or as legal entities as ordinary citizens is hereby confirmed.

6. The Honduran Armed Forces hereby underline its non-participation as an institution in the bloody events that occurred at Agua Caliente, Arizona municipality, Atlantida Dpartment, and urge all citizens to use the law as the only feasible instrument to ensure the orderly and peaceful solution of all conflicts.

[Dated] Tegucigalpa, 14 May 1991.

[Signed] Public Relations Directorate of the Honduran Armed Forces.

Discua on Meeting With Southern Command Chief

PA1705221291 San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 May 91 p3

[Text] Tegucigalpa—Brigadier General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir, chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, has told LA PRENSA that he did not discuss military matters with General George Joulwan, commander in chief of the U.S. Southern Command.

Discua Elvir traveled to Panama City on 14 May to meet with Gen. Joulwan, supposedly to discuss maters of "common interest," according to a U.S. military spokesman when consulted about Gen. Discua's visit to the Panama Canal.

Last night, during an art exhibition by Honduran painters, Discua said that he discussed with Gen. Joulwan topics related to the country's deforestation problems and ecological damage.

Discua said that the United States is interested in improving ecological conditions in Honduras and promised assistance to continue developing a policy of demilitarizing and transforming military units into "green battalions."

Some months ago, the military high command transformed the Comayagua Battalion into the Ecological Development Experimental Center.

According to Discua Elvir, the United States is very interested in this model and offered broad assistance to continue the demilitarization program.

Discua Elvir said that he also discussed the problem of drug trafficking in Central America, particularly in Honduras, with Gen. Joulwan.

He added that other military units will be trained to specialize in the struggle against drug trafficking.

Meanwhile, he added, the work in military farms has continued and approximately 1,000 manzanas of land have been prepared for planting beans, corn, rice, and sorghum.

Discua Elvir announced that, invited by General Colin Powell, he will travel to Washington in June. He has been invited by Gen. Colin Powell to speak before the U.S. Senate and House about the new policy toward the civilian sector he is promoting within the military.

Carias on Contra Supplies, C.A. Parliament

PA1705174891 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 14 May 91 p 2

[Text] Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata said yesterday that next month the International Court of Justice at The Hague will begin to review the problem of the islands and maritime areas, "which is a sensitive and somewhat complex problem," and for that reason the public and the National Congress will be kept informed on the case.

Commenting on reports from Nicaragua that the "contras" are getting weapons from Honduras, Carias Zapata said the government "categorically" denies that report.

"No Honduran citizen is providing that kind of aid. These are speculations that appear (and) that I find very regrettable because they were given broad coverage by the Sandinist news media in Nicaragua."

The foreign minister felt these sorts of reports cause "some friction in the relations" between Honduras and Nicaragua at a time when the government's policy aims at "fully normalizing relations with Nicaragua."

On another matter, the official stated that Nicaragua has requested a two-year postponement of the elections for deputies to the Central American parliament. Nicaragua requests that it be temporarily represented by unelected deputies.

The Honduran stance is that the parliament should begin to operate in October at the latest, with the participation of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras and, if possible, Nicaragua by way of the aforementioned temporary arrangement.

Costa Rica submitted the original treaty and protocol to the Legislative Assembly, but so far it is not prepared to join the regional forum.

Nicaragua

'Re-Contras' Admit Supply of 'Modern Weapons'

PA1805154591 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 15 May 91 pp 1, 8

[Report by Moises Castillo]

[Text] Matagalpa—During a news conference held yesterday at Journalists House, Denis Ronald Morales Siles, 30, said that Encarnacion Valdivia (aka) "El Tigrillo," "Dimas," "Rojito," and "Cinco Pinos," the leaders of the re-contras spoke with foreign newsmen in El Bote, jurisdiction of Bocaycito in Jinotega, on Friday, 10 May. They arrived there guided by a former leader named "Johnson."

Morales Siles, a peasant who was falsely accused of being a Sandinist for several days by the re-contras, said that they told newsmen they are being supplied all kinds of modern weapons and new supplies. He said he confirmed this while he was kidnapped. He noted that they had M-16, AK, and FAL rifles and ammunition, and all looked shiny and well oiled.

Morales Siles said that El Tigrillo told him that the supplies are airlifted to them near the Poleca River, on the border with Teotecacinte, Honduras.

When the foreign newsmen left, the peasant added, the re-contras took him to a church, held a rifle barrel to his head, chest, and back, threatened to shoot him later, and forced him to confess that he was a Sandinist. Later, however, they took his money and released him.

Morales Siles said that the re-contras harbor an intense hate for their former leader Israel Galeano, or "Franklin," whom they accuse of having sold himself. They warned that if he ever dares to go to that region someday, he better think twice because he will not return alive.

According to military sources in the zone, there are 28 groups of former contras, each one made up of 40 men, who are being given military training to fight the forces of the EPS [Sandinist People's Army]. The re-contras are spurred on by the most recalcitrant members of the UNO [National Opposition Union] who seek to sow a bloodbath to achieve their political ends.

Resistance Issues Communique on Armed Groups

PA1805154091 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 16 May 91

[Communique issued by the Nicaraguan Resistance, RN, in Managua on 15 May—read by announcer]

[Text] In view of press reports that were recently released regarding the existence of armed groups on national territory, the RN expresses the following:

1. The RN is currently committed to the national reconciliation process, convinced that this constitutes the best road for the establishment of a democracy and of a state of law in our fatherland.

2. The armed groups have been created by members of paramilitary groups who are opposed to the process of reinstating the demobilized people to Nicaraguan civilian life.

3. As a result, the RN issues a warning to the demobilized people to not allow themselves to be directly manipulated by the Sandinists and their media, which only seek to obstruct the hard work that is currently being done by our organization in the search for a true national reconciliation.

Signed in Managua, 15 May,

Southern Front, ARDE [Democratic Revolutionary Alliance], Jose Guerrero, Commander Navegante; Central Front, Luis Angel Lopez Espinoza, Commander Leonel; Northern Front, (Rodolfo Ampie), Commander Invisible; Atlantic Front, Yatama [Miskito, Sumu, and Rama Indians, and Creole Groups Organization], Osorno Coleman, Commander Blas.

Urges Faster Action

PA1805004391 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1130 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The commanders of four Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] fronts have appealed for reconciliation and increased production. Commander Wilder has said that the demobilized demand a greater response from the government.

Commander Wilder, RN representative at the Agrarian Reform, said that the government should act quickly to solve the problems of and comply with the commitments made to the demobilized and the armed groups of re-contras. Wilder added that a large number of anti-Sandinist combatants have not received their lands and that the social and economic problems are strangling them.

FSLN's Arce Demands Urgent Land Legalization

PA1805011691 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 13 May 91 pp 1, 12

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Bayarco Arce has urgently demanded that the government "legalize the lands distributed among peasants before the farming season begins." He voiced this concern while addressing a meeting of members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] of the 4th district of Managua.

"If we do not farm, we will have nothing to eat," Arce said. He noted that 60 percent of the lands associated with the People's Ownership Sector has been turned over to the poor—the farmworkers, demobilized Sandinist People's Army members, and former contras—who account for a considerable percentage of the country's agricultural production.

He declared that the "FSLN is pressuring the government to hand over property titles of homes and lots donated during the Sandinist period.

"We included those laws in the government's transition protocol. Now we tell them that if they approve the repeal of these laws, it will mean that the agreements have been broken," the Sandinist leader added.

Arce referred to the presence of the FSLN in the meeting of donors to be held in the coming week in Paris. Doctor Sergio Ramirez will attend the meeting.

He recalled that Sandinism is committed to being a constructive political opposition, while the UNO [National Opposition Union] government is carrying out eforts to improve the welfare of the people. "This is why the FSLN is attending the donors meeting," he explained.

He noted that "when we were in the government, it was the FSLN that arranged for the meeting of donor countries. We fathered this special aid effort to Nicaragua."

Arce said: "That is why we are still there, because we know that if the country does not receive that aid, the situation can change dramatically and the only ones who will be harmed will be the people." He said the FSLN and the people will struggle to guarantee the best use of the aid if it is obtained.

The FSLN leader stressed that the people who benefitted from the revolution, whether or not they are Sandinists, should support the negotiations. "This means," he explained, "that along with the struggle of the masses we must support the FSLN-government negotiations."

"Now the FSLN is supporting the teachers' struggle, because their demands are just. In the same way, if we find out that a companero is going to be evicted from his home, the Sandinist neighbors must struggle with and support him," Arce stated.

Arce said that the FSLN does not seek to overthrow the government, but rather to struggle in defense of the revolutionary achievements.

Commission President on ICJ Case Against U.S.

PA1805155491 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1815 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Adolfo Jarquin, the National Assembly's foreign commission president, has stated that the Nicaraguan Government is not renouncing The Hague International Court of Justice's decision in its favor. He said that the government headed by President Violeta Chamorro is trying to reach an out-of-court settlement with the U.S. Government. Here are Adolfo Jarquin's statements:

[Begin recording] [Jarquin] First of all, I believe the Nicaraguan Government cannot withdraw the charges it made against the United States at The Hague. Second, the government's bill aims at having Law 92 repealed.

[Unidentified reporter] One of the reasons given for the bill is that the government should be given a free hand to negotiate the matter.

[Jarquin] Most of the lawyers and international experts we have consulted agree that Law 92 is unconstitutional, except for Article 3. Foreign Minister Enrique Dreyfus told the foreign commission that what the executive branch really wants is to reach an out-of-court settlement. As a politician, I cannot judge the intentions of the executive branch a priori. As the president of the foreign commission and a representative in the National Assembly, I hear the officials that appear before the different commissions and I believe they should speak carefully and state the government's true intentions.

[Reporter] Regardless of whether the law is constitutional or not, the concrete question remains: Do you believe the United States is willing to negotiate the matter?

[Jarquin] Yes, I believe this is the case and base my opinion on the relations that have been established with our new government. I have also observed many initiatives in this respect, such as President Chamorro's visit to the United States and the rapprochement between the United States and our new government. I believe the United States is pursuing an out-of-court settlement with Nicaragua. [end recording]

Cuban Ambassador Comments on State of Relations

PA1905201591 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 16 May 91 p 8

[Report by Edgard Barberena S.]

[Text] A few days ago Cuban President Fidel Castro, via the Cuban Foreign Ministry [Minrex], approved the first ambassador of the Chamorro administration to that Caribbean nation since Gustavo Moreno, the last Nicaraguan diplomat of the Sandinist government.

The Minrex approval was for Doctor Jose Luis Medina Bravo, a gastroenterologist and member of the Socialist Party of Nicaragua (PSN), Cuban Ambassador to Managua Fernando Ravelo confirmed for EL NUEVO DIARIO.

He assured that his government's relations with the Chamorro administration "are progressing normally."

When President Chamorro was installed in office on 25 April 1990, Aura Estela Cano was in charge of the Nicaraguan Embassy in Havana as charge d'affaires. The Castro administration has maintained relations with Managua through Cano.

The Cuban ambassador confirmed that the Governments of Nicaragua and Cuba recently signed a trade protocol and "we are about to finalize the last details of a cooperation agreement."

A medical cooperation mission consisting of more than 100 doctors remains in Nicaragua, and "we hope that the number of doctors will be expanded with the signing of the cooperation agreement, to include other areas of their work including higher education, culture, and sports," he added.

Ravelo said that "in other words, our relations are developing normally at the official level, as well as at the level of cooperation and trade. Thus, we are not worried about our relations because they are developing within the framework of mutual respect and reciprocal needs, and we believe that our relations are solid and stable."

Prior to the signing of the protocols—which are pending a fine tuning by the two parties—Cuba has maintained smooth trade relations with the Chamorro administration although Protocol 91 has not been signed. "Trade exchange developed satisfactorily in 1990 and with the signing of an agreement such relations will be strengthened," he added.

During the administration of Commander Daniel Ortega, thousands of Nicaraguans traveled to Cuba to receive various kinds of medical treatment, including laser surgery (those affected by myopia).

The Cuban diplomat said that this cooperation is being maintained and many Nicaraguans leave for Cuba each week to receive medical treatment "because this is part of our cooperation with the Health Ministry."

The Cuban ambassador was part of a group of diplomats who met on 14 May with the Human Rights and Peace Commission of the parliament, where its president Luis Enrique Figueroa explained to them the situation of the "re-contras."

At that meeting Ambassador Ravelo advocated the establishment of peace in Nicaragua and saluted the parliamentarian commission for its efforts to meet the needs of peasants, not only former members of the Nicaraguan Resistance but also Sandinists and others who have joined efforts in the countryside to present their demands to the Chamorro administration.

Ortega Returns From North-South Meeting

PA1805004291 Managua Sistema Nacional de Television Network in Spanish 0330 GMT 14 May 91

[From the independent "Extravision" newscast, directed by Manuel Espinoza]

[Text] Former Nicaraguan President Commander Daniel Ortega Saavedra has returned from Europe after attending a meeting to discuss the major challenges for progressive forces of Latin America and ways to face common North-South problems from a perspective of solidarity. Attending the meeting were the Brazilian Workers Party, the Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the Colombian 19 April Movement, the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity, the Communist Party of Cuba, the Sandinist National Liberation Front, nongovernment groups, and solidarity networks.

The meeting was summoned by nongovernment European organizations and sponsored by OXFAM [Oxford Committee for Famine Relief] in Belgium. Attending the meeting were representatives of Latin America's new left. Commander Ortega was the special guest.

The meeting, held in Gent, lasted three days. The discussion centered on the major and new challenges for Latin America's progressive forces and ways to face problems common to North and South countries, within a the framework of solidarity and convergence of interests. In his speech, the former president endorsed continued aid for Nicaragua, and added:

[Begin Ortega recording] We are meeting here to talk about the common problems of the North and South peoples. [end recording]

The closing ceremony in Gent was attended by 2,000 persons. Earlier, the former president met the city's major. Commander Ortega attended the ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of ONG [Consortium for North-South Development Corporation]-OXFAM, whose 11-year work in Nicaragua was highlighted.

Panama

Noriega Extradition To Be Sought After Trial

PA1805014191 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2313 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Panama City, 17 May (ACAN-EFE)—Panamanian Foreign Minister Julio Linares said today that his government will ask the United States for the extradition of deposed General Manuel Antonio Noriega after the two pending trials [as received] in Miami, Florida on drug trafficking and money "laundering" charges are over.

Panamanian judicial branch sources told ACAN-EFE yesterday that the U.S. State Department asked Panama to withdraw for the time being various extradition requests for Noriega presented over the past few months so as to not hinder the Miami trials.

"I see no problem complying with the requests," the Panamanian foreign minister told a group of reporters.

Linares added that Washington's request was "unnecessary" because the Panamanian Government does not expect the United States to turn over Noriega before the trials in the U.S. courts are over.

A judicial branch source told ACAN-EFE that "once Noriega serves 150 years in prison, we will bring him to Panama to serve 20 more years" (Panama's maximum prison term).

Noriega, who on 3 January 1990 turned himself over to the U.S. troops that invaded Panama in December 1989, has numerous charges pending in Panama that range from murder to public embezzlement.

Regarding the extradition requests for Noriega cronies who received safe-conducts during recent months to travel to Guatemala, Cuba, Mexico, and Peru, Linares said that Panama will have to respect these countries' decisions if they do not grant the extraditions.

"According to international law, Panama will have to respect that decision," because "Panama has no place to appeal, or any higher authority to hear its case," the foreign minister said.

Catholic Paper Cites Human Rights Commitments

PA2005025091 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 19 May 91 p 1

[Text] Panamanian President Guillermo Endara Galimany committed himself before the Latin American Human Rights Association (ALDHU) to granting safe-conducts to the asylees in local embassies and to a presidential pardon for any member of the former Council of State in the event a member was condemned.

The announcement was made by the ALDHU in a document which adds that the Panamanian president would also classify as political crimes both the arrest orders against the members of the former Council of State (in which ministers, directors of autonomous and semi-autonomous entities, and high-ranking officers of the defunct Panama Defense Forces participated) and the corresponding process as announced by the Attorney General's Office.

In addition, the ALDHU document stresses, Attorney General Rogelio Cruz committed himself before a ALDHU commission not to enforce the arrest warrant against the members of the council.

The ALDHU has its main office in Veintimilla and Reina Victoria in Quito, Ecuador, and its post office box is 9296-7. The association also points out the dangerous atmosphere of social tension prevailing in Panama that could have dramatic consequences in view of the massive destruction of the economy and commercial activities, unemployment, the frustration of the Chorrillo homeless, the drastic impoverishment of the farmers who were favored by the agrarian reform but have no access to credit, and the massive dismissals of public employees without justification or due process.

ALDHU made several recommendations to the government to rectify the persecutory and revengeful attitudes, including ending the persecution of the University of Panama, providing the necessary funds for its operation, and observing due respect for university autonomy and teaching activities.

PANORAMA CATOLICO presented to the minister of the presidency a questionnaire on the statements made by ALDHU and it is expecting an official reply in a few days.

Asks Leaders for 'Truth'

PA2005033791 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 19 May 91 p 4

[Editorial: Speaking the Truth"]

[Text] The habit of disguising reality seems to be popular among top government officials, who frequently deny facts that later turn out to be contrary to what they denied. This was the case both of the safe-conducts recently granted to former officials of the Noriega regime who sought asylum

at various embassies and the implementation of measures stemming from recommendations made by international financial institutions. The word play and the disguising attitude we mentioned have undermined the credibility of government leaders and have sowed mistrust in government institutions. We believe that the main virtue of government leaders should be truthfulness. Everything else is secondary. However, when government interests prevail over the truth, then the leaders no longer have any moral authority to ask the people for sacrifices and support for specific policies. Hence, it is time for our leaders to rectify their path and to speak the truth to the people about social security, economic strategy, interparty relations, and other topics of vital importance for the development of democracy. Otherwise, they would not only disappoint the Panamanian people, but also let pass a valuable moment to eradicate corruption and lies from the state.

Endara Denies Allegations

PA2005014791 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0017 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Panama City, 19 May (DPA)— Panamanian President Guillermo Endara today called the Catholic Church a "liar" and accused the Church of assuming the role of "opposition" by saying in its weekly newspaper that Endara committed himself to giving safe-conducts to asylees and to granting amnesty to several Noriega cronies.

Based on a report issued by the Latin American Human Rights Association, PANORAMA CATOLICO reported that Endara had promised to grant the safe-conducts that last week permitted four of Noriega's collaborators to leave Panama and also to pardon the members of the former General State Council that in 1989 prevented the installation of the constitutional government by appointing Francisco Rodriguez as president of the Republic.

I was "unpleasantly surprised," by the news, Endara said after attending an event with Corregimiento representatives. It is a "big lie," and the Church has fallen into the wrong tendency of believing that the only way to sell newspapers is by opposing the government, he added. Endara said that it is "surprising that the Church would publish that lie, because the Church should always tell the truth."

He stressed that he has never made any pact as reported in the weekly; Noriega's collaborators should be tried first, and then we will see what can be done about them.

Foreign Ministry Explains Granting Safe-Conducts

PA1905215091 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 14 May 91 p 2-A

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry; date not given]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry reports:

1. Through diplomatic notes No. 5-10-M/002 and 2-20-M/027 of 8 January and 2 March 1990, respectively, the Peruvian Embassy informed the Panamanian Foreign Ministry that it had granted provisonal asylum to Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre, accused of the murder of officers from the former Defense Forces of Panama who participated in the military uprising against former General Manuel Antonio Noriega. Heraclides Sucre had also been accused of killing eight Colombians and one U.S. citizen on the prison island of Coiba between 1983 and 1984.

2. The embassies of Mexico and Cuba also informed the Panamanian Foreign Ministry that Rafael Arosemena and Luis Gomez were in diplomatic installations and that they had been granted political asylum. Arosemena had been accused of crimes against the public administration because of actions detrimental to the National Bank of Panama. Luis Gomez had been accused of killing Carlos Enrique Guzman and of being responsible for the missing status of Rita Wald.

3. The Panamanian Foreign Ministry has informed the embassies of Peru, Mexico, and Cuba of the crimes with which Gonzalo Gonzalez, Heraclides Sucre, Rafael Arosemena, and Luis Gomez, who had been staying in those embassies, had been charged.

4. The Peruvian Embassy described the criminal actions of Gonzalo Gonzalez and Heraclides Sucre as political crimes because the Peruvian Government, basing itself on Article III of the Caracas Convention of 1954 on political asylum, does not consider charges filed after the request for asylum is made, and when these gentlemen sought asylum there was no charge against them.

5. The Cuban Embassy also reported that there was no penal process against Luis Gomez prior to his request for political asylum.

6. The Foreign Ministry had maintained the position of not granting safe-conduct to Rafael Arosemena because he was accused of crimes against the public administration—against the National Bank of Panama, where he served as general manager, that is, he was accused of a common crime. When he requested asylum, charges had already been filed against him at the Attorney General's Office.

7. Despite this, the illustrious governments of Peru, Mexico, and Cuba characterized the criminal behavior of Gonzalo Gonzalez, Heraclides Sucre, Rafael Arosemena, and Luis Gomez as political acts and requested that safe-conducts be issued for them.

8. Because of the requests presented by the honorable embassies of Peru, Mexico, and Cuba, requests based on the Caracas Convention of 25 March 1954, the national government issued safe-conducts to Gonzalo Gonzalez, Heraclides Sucre, Rafael Arosemena, and Luis Gomez so that they could leave Panamanian territory, which they did on 10 May 1991.

PDC Spokesmen on Government's Economic Plans

PA1805144491 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Members of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] said today that the structural reforms announced last night

by the planning minister do not guarantee at all a good economic future for the country.

[Begin recording of unidentified speaker] The problem is not what the minister said but what he did not say. It is evident that he does not believe in what he said. The objective of the government's structural reform is to find a way to finance its budget and see how it can secure fresh money. It does not have anything to do with a structural reform aimed at securing sustained and viable economic growth in the country.

Minister Guillermo Ford's statement did not include this. It does not mention an industrial recovery program, social well-being, or the Panama Canal and the reverted areas and areas that are to be reverted, as important elements of the economic strategy.

Regarding privatization, it does not mention necessary legal controls to prevent the creation of monopolies in the event some activities pass under the control of the private sector. Ford's statement did not propose the creation of a conflict-of-interests law that would keep government officials who engage in negotiations for the privatization of state property from buying shares of the business being privatized so that in negotiating they have no other interests to defend but those of the state. [end recording]

[Begin Guillermo Cochez recording] Minister Ford is not certain that structural changes are necessary. He is announcing them as a demand of the World Bank and other international organizations. We believe that structural changes are necessary in Panama. To implement them, though, it is necessary to secure acceptance from forces that have not been considered. By Monday the party will have a clear position on the final document published today in LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, a document that Vice President Ford sent to the PDC only a few minutes ago.

We will state our position in a responsible fashion because Mr. Ford spoke of demagoguery, but as soon as he concluded his speech we knew who engages in demagoguery. [end recording]

Turns Down Ford Invitation

PA1805200991 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 May 91 p 32A

[Report by Jose Quintero de Leon]

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] faction in the Legislative Assembly turned down an invitation yesterday from Planning Minister Guillermo Ford to meet with him and discuss his recent negotiations with the international financial institutions and the implementation of his new economic program.

Ford's letter to Assembly President Alonso Fernandez also invited PRD [Revolutionary Democratic Party], PALA [Labor Party], and Liberal Party legislators to meet with him, one group at a time.

Alfredo Ehlers, spokesman for the PDC faction, told Fernandez that they viewed the fact that the invitation was not addressed to them as disrespectful.

Ehlers said that there was too much haste, that the invitation was made only the day before and that, in addition, the PDC legislators could not hear Ford's remarks on national television because they were in session at the time.

Nevertheless, he said that the faction is willing to meet with Ford provided he respects them and uses the proper channels.

The PRD faction, which was a little less touchy, said they are willing to listen to Ford and that they will meet before noon to decide on their strategy.

Comptroller General Rejects Firing 19,000

PA1705153891 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 May 91 p 32-A

[Article by Vilma E. Figueroa B.]

[Text] Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles has said he believes that the government cannot fire 19,000 employees, as recommended by the International Financial Institutions (IFI). However, he did acknowledge that there is an excess of public employees on the government payroll.

The controller of state funds said that a study would first have to be undertaken because neither President Endara nor Planning Minister Guillermo Ford can fire that number of public employees.

"The government should be more efficient, but that does not mean that it is going to fire people left and right," the comptroller underscored.

According to Carles, it is necessary to make adjustments so that the bureaucracy in the government institutions becomes "lighter."

Carles also said he favored a careful study regarding the number of public employees and how to slowly reduce and transfer some of them to the private sector, although he explained that this cannot be achieved until there are new job opportunities.

"They are making their recommendations, but that does not mean we have to accept them, because in the end it is the government that decides how to resolve this situation. Neither President Endara nor Minister Ford can possibly be thinking of firing that amount of public employees," Carles reiterated.

Arias Calderon Cites Policy 'Contradictions'

PA1805162491 Panama City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 May 91 pp 64, 50

[Report by Roberto Cubilla]

[Text] Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon has said that the Panamanian Government's economic and international policy is unclear because of the executive's contradictions.

Arias Calderon, who is also the president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, said there are contradictions regarding beef. While government sources prepared the public for a rise in the consumer price of beef, the president of the Republic "said he was not convinced of the reasons for this increase." Arias Calderon added that President Endara "contradicted himself when he said he was personally convinced of the need for the increase, but that the public was not."

Other contradictions in the executive branch are related to the granting of safe-conducts to political asylees, who finally departed the country.

The vice president said that contradictions have also occurred in relation to the level of employment in the public sector. While Planning Minister Guillermo Ford asserts that 19,000 workers will not be laid off as recommended by the World Bank, "Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles and President Endara say there will be dismissals" and the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] director reports that 1,030 employees have already been fired.

Arias Calderon commented: "The truth is that there are numerous contradictions. This is serious."

He also said that the absence of a well-defined and clearly explained policy results in public confusion "and arouses the suspicion that the citizens are not being told the truth."

In addition, he said that the stance of his party, now in the opposition, is the same as when it was in Endara's government.

Finance Minister Denies U.S. Sent $1 Billion

PA1705155191 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 8C

[Report by Eduardo Soto]

[Text] Finance and Treasury Minister Mario Galindo said yesterday he ignored "where" the billions of dollars the United States reports giving to Panama in the past two years "came from."

The money the United States has offered the Panamanian Government corresponds to a widely known financial backing plan, Galindo noted, adding: "The figure received by Panama does not resemble" the one that appeared a few days ago.

International news reports indicated the United States had given Panama at least $1 billion over the past two years, surpassing all the aid that had been given to this country in the past 38 years.

The same reports placed Panama as the number one recipient of U.S. economic aid in Latin America, and as number three in the world, following Israel and Egypt.

Minister Galindo said the money provided by the U.S. Government has been "used in a most responsible and honorable manner," ruling out the idea that it was misspent.

"The country knows the person in charge of controlling the disbursements" of public funds is Comptroller General Ruben Dario Carles, Galindo noted. The official went on to describe the comptroller general's work as the best in many years.

Part of the aid that the United States reports giving to Panama is contingent upon the agreements that may be reached by international financial institutions, the minister noted.

Economic Policies Termed 'Threat' to Poor

PA2005041091 Panama City PANORAMA CATOLICO in Spanish 19 May 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Neoliberal Threat"]

[Text] The neoliberal-type measures announced by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Policy are, in part, a threat to the standard of living of the poorer Panamanians because their implementation means establishing a system of supply and demand in a country where there are still monopolies in certain basic services, monopolies that do not allow free competition.

The path chosen by the national government necessarily calls for a state commitment to guarantee a dignified standard of living for the dispossessed and to promote the growth of small enterprise by liberating them from any heavy burdens. In the same manner, the government should adopt plans to develop rural agriculture to ensure the progress of thousands of peasant families who, otherwise, would be pushed into terrible poverty.

The decision to choose a neoliberal economic model for Panama is made at a time when we are commemorating the centennial of the Rerum Novarum encyclical that condemns the liberal system of exploitation and when the Pope has issued a new paper called Centesimus Annus that challenges the payment of the foreign debt at the expense of the impoverishment of the peoples.

Endara Meets With Soviet Maritime Investors

PA1805170791 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] President Guillermo Endara has met with a group of Soviet investors who are interested in Panama's maritime services.

The delegation was headed by Vladimir Mistyuk, president of the Soviet Maritime Fleet [name and title as heard], who said his country is interested in commercial relations and scientific cooperation with Panama.

President Endara stated his appreciation for the visit and said he is prepared to help those who are ready to contribute to Panama's economy with their investments.

Luis Felipe Clement, Panama's general consul to New York, who arranged the visit of the Soviet delegation, attended the meeting.

PRD President Urges Investigation of Endara

PA1905191891 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 1, A-2

[Text] Legislator Gerardo Gonzalez, former vice president of the Republic and current president of the Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), has ratified his demand for an "in-depth investigation" of the reports he made a few weeks ago on the relations between President Guillermo Endara and people who are involved in money laundering activities.

During a recent journey to Mexico, Gonzalez gave statements to the newspaper EXCELSIOR concerning the report and other current political issues in Panama. Gonzalez did not accuse Endara of personally participating in "any illegal operation, but he charged Endara with being involved, through companies represented by his law firm, with persons (citing the name of the Cuban-American lawyer Juan Acosta) linked to money laundering activities."

In the article that journalist Luis Suarez wrote for EXCELSIOR, Gonzalez said that Manuel Noriega—currently jailed in the United States—had been demonized by the United States since 1986. He added that Noriega no longer represents an element of controversy in Panama. Gonzalez stated further: "The issue of Noriega has dissipated, and the former strongman is only seen as Washington's pretext for invading Panama, without yet having fabricated all the evidence against him, which Panamanians are hoping to learn some day."

During his short stay in Mexico, Gonzalez met with Luis Donaldo Colosio, president of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] and COPPPAL [Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties], and the leaders of other Mexican political parties that form the COPPPAL. Gonzalez met with Sagayo, of the PPS [Popular Socialist Party]; Aguilar Talamantes, of the PFCRN [Cardenist Front for National Reconstructino Party]; and Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, of the PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution], which is about to be admitted to the COPPPAL.

In his statement to EXCELSIOR, Gonzalez explained that he has not accused Endara of personally being involved in any illegal operation, saying: "I have accused him of having relations with people who have been involved in illegal activities for 10 years. This should be clarified, given the country's special situation and the fact that the United States uses weapons such as this in order to obtain concessions from weak governments and governments subject to this kind of extortion."

Meanwhile, Gonzalez, who became PRD president on 9 March 1991, said that a mechanism of political repression, which has been continually evolving until now, was established in Panama in January of last year. He noted that many members of the PRD have been victims of this situation, despite the degree of political tolerance in the country resulting from conditions that force the government to act in a particular way.

Referring to the breakup in the government alliance, Gonzalez blamed it on its very origin. He described the alliance as "a heterogeneous mixture assembled by the United States with the sole political objective—which held it together—of fighting Gen. Noriega." Gonzalez concluded that "the tension increased" after Noriega disappeared from the political arena and when the main public posts were distributed based on the votes received. "This distribution was distorted," Gonzalez continued, "because Endara did not have a political party, and the tension escalated after the government's electoral defeat in the January partial elections, which were won by the opposition."

PRD Leader Denies Torrijos Linked to CIA

PA1805173991 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 17 May 91 pp A-1, A-2

[Report by Doris Hubbard-Castillo]

[Text] Ernesto Perez Balladares, secretary general of the Democratic Revolutionary Party [PRD], has emphatically denied that General Omar Torrijos Herrera collaborated with the U.S. CIA, which a local media source reported yesterday.

"No CIA agent has ever been known to defend the sovereignty of the people he obtains information from. Omar Torrijos defended our sovereignty and lost sleep for the sake of Panama's sovereign dignity," Perez Balladares, a follower and personal friend of the late political leader and PRD founder, said.

According to a LA PRENSA report from Miami that was published yesterday, a document released by attorneys working on the defense of Manuel Antonio Noriega, Defense Forces commander until 20 December 1989, Omar Torrijos "was on the payroll" of the CIA since 1968.

According to the report, Torrijos and Noriega worked closely and Torrijos rewarded Noriega with promotions.

Perez Balladares also said: "Despite the annoyance I feel when I read and listen to things like that, I am not going to defend Omar, because as he himself said, when such unlikely things are said it is better not to reply. It is the same as if one is accused of being homosexual. One is not going to appear on television every day to deny it."

He added: "Faced with such an accusation, the best argument Torrijos followers have to vanquish it is that it was Omar Torrijos and not someone else who got the most powerful country in the world to sit down at the negotiating table to amend some treaties that were harming our nation."

"That audacity earned Torrijos the accusation not only of being a CIA agent but also of being involved in drug trafficking. These accusations stemmed from both his negotiating counterparts as well as those who feared defying the empire. Former Foreign Minister Juan Antonio Tack was similarly accused at the beginning of the 1970's. Coincidentally, Tack was one of the treaty negotiators."

"The accusation, however, did not stand the test of truth, and they had to apologize and seek other ways. They were left no option but to sign the treaties," added Perez Balladares.

Perez Balladares also said: "Therefore, now is not the time to take us by surprise, less so when the entire PRD knows that we have made the moral and historic pledge to ensure compliance of the canal treaty that puts an end to a U.S. presence in Panama on 31 December 1999. With this very definite goal in mind we have begun restructuring the party."

Perez Balladares added: "However, we cannot speak the same way of Noriega, who is totally different from what Omar was, is, and will be—not only for his followers, but for Panama and Latin America's history. We do not allow comparisons to be made of the two, because Omar's stature visibly surpasses Noriega's, and we are not referring to his physical stature."

Editorial Chides U.S. on Invasion Damage

PA1905140291 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 15 May 91 p A4

[Editorial: "The Frustrated National Council of Private Enterprise Lawsuit"]

[Text] No Panamanian has been surprised by the results of the lawsuit filed by the National Council of Private Enterprise [CONEP] against the U.S. Government. A U.S. court has exonerated U.S. Government authorities from responsibility for the damage inflicted on Panamanian commercial and industrial establishments during the 20 December 1989 invasion. Panamanians cannot forget the generalized looting that took place in the cities of Panama and Colon during the days following the U.S. invasion. It is no secret that the anarchy and vandalism that seized the main Panamanian cities was a product of the bloody U.S. invasion aimed at overthrowing General Manuel Antonio Noriega's military government. It is also evident that the looting would not have taken place had there not been the invasion ordered by the government of George Bush.

In explaining what happened in Panama, the U.S. President called it an invasion. Those carrying out the invasion are absolutely responsible for whatever happened in the country during and directly after the invasion. A U.S. court has ruled, however, that CONEP has no right to claim an indemnity for the damage that the resulting violence inflicted on Panama's commerce and industry. The U.S. court's ruling leaves Panamanian businessmen and industrialists with no hope of recovering the millions they lost as a result of the 20 December invasion. They have met the same fate locally since the insurance companies, that had insured the ravaged establishments, have refused to pay for the damage arguing that it was the result of war and thus is not covered.

We have always been of the opinion that the U.S. Government has to assume its responsibility for what happened in the country during and after the invasion. We think that the national government should have set aside its submissive position before the giant to the North and that it should have demanded a big indemnity for the grave damage inflicted on our country by the 20 December invasion. However, the national government chose to be submissive and to instead ask for donations. The U.S. Government, on the other hand, far from thinking that it should acknowledge the damage inflicted on Panama, has been frequently presenting its bill for the favor it supposedly did us by making the invasion appear as a "liberation." Sooner or later, inexorably, history will justly characterize the bloody 20 December 1989 action for what it really was. The first undertaking using just and objective paths has already crashed against the frustrating wall characterized by a lack of understanding. This has just happened with the ruling against CONEP.

Noriega Trial To Reveal 'Sordid' U.S. Ties

PA1705225691 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 16 May 91 p 1A

["As of Today" column]

[Text] Generals Omar Torrijos and Manuel Antonio Noriega, who proclaimed themselves to be more nationalistic than any other Panamanians in history, were agents paid by the CIA. Like them, National Guard officers in Torrijos' time and the Panama Defense Forces in Noriega's time rented their loyalties to whoever was ready to pay well for them.

The slogan "All for the Fatherland," which they boasted of in official ceremonies, hid the truth that both were ready to give their "all for the dough," as many suspected. Noriega's lawyers, bereft of arguments on which to effectively base their defense, decided to disclose some of the most sordid aspects of the relations between Panamanian officers and some U.S. Government agencies, hoping that the trial will not be held, as it may have major political repercussions.

Perhaps this is all for the better, so the world knows at least part of, if not the whole, extensive network of shady and sordid acts of complicity that made two decades of military dictatorship in Panama possible. That way, Noriega's trial will disclose the unscrupulous U.S. foreign policy toward Panama, as well as the identity of the persons responsible for adopting and implementing it during several Republican, as well as Democratic, administrations.

Customs Officials, Agents Exchange Accusations

PA1905135891 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 1-A

[Article by Juan Pritsiolas]

[Text] A series of mutual accusations of corruption were recently made between fired customs agents and the General Directorate of Customs.

Customs Director Rodrigo Arosemena said he has knowledge that "corruption has again taken over certain structures" of the agency, for which 10 officials have been dismissed and others are under investigation.

Arosemena stated that one of those dismissed was "caught red-handed when he was about to receive $20,000 he had charged as a bribe."

Other sources told EL PANAMA AMERICA that Sergio Anguizola, chief of the Technical Customs Investigations Division (DITA), and other officials from the narcotics section were given leave.

The dismissed agents alleged that they have compromising documents against Arosemena, including a duty exemption allegedly authorized by Arosemena for restaurant equipment belonging to a radio broadcaster.

Meanwhile, several customs agents have been accused before the Narcotics Secretariat of the Attorney General's Office of extortion against a young cocaine trafficker named Royo, whom the agents arrested at Tocumen International Airport.

The customs agents involved in the case went so far as to detain Royo at a local hotel while they negotiated the amount of money to be extorted.

At another circuit judge's office, a report was filed by a Colombian citizen who says that customs agents strip-searched him and stole $500 he was carrying.

Cattlemen Apologize for Detaining Endara

PA1705154391 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 May 91 p 1A

[Report by Carlos Vargas]

[Text] The National Association of Cattlemen [ANAGAN] apologized to President Guillermo Endara yesterday for the 13 May incident in Divisa where he was held up for several minutes by a group of producers.

ANAGAN President Gertrudis Mitre sent a letter to Endara apologizing to the president and his retinue for the offense committed against him.

A portion of the letter sent to Endara by the cattlemen states: "Rest fully assured that we are ashamed of what happened and, at the same time, are thankful for your courageous presence and participation in the event that we held." The cattlemen added that perhaps the incident was staged by persons who had unjustified aims and are not linked with their movement, noting, however, that they understand the milk producers' difficult situation.

The cattlemen told Endara they are certain he will appreciate the positive side of the meeting with the producers and that his benevolence will allow him to forget about the negative aspect of the meeting.

"We trust that now, with greater elements of judgment, you will be able to assess our struggle to achieve a secure market for our milk products and a fair price for our beef," ANAGAN reiterated to Endara.

Meanwhile, Endara also received a note from the Chiriqui Milk Producers Cooperative deploring the incident.

Argentina

General Punished With 30 Days House Arrest

PY1805015291 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1605 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (TELAM)—Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez today denied that the country is defenseless. He noted: "It is one thing not to have an ideal operational capability and another to be completely defenseless."

Gonzalez also said that former Air Force Chief Ernesto Crespo has been sentenced to 30 days of house arrest, but he declined to comment on Crespo's request to be discharged from the Air Force because, he said, "this request has not yet been received."

Gonzalez made this statement at the end of a ceremony commemorating Navy Day in Buenos Aires. He said military institutions today "are truly republican" and "are fully inserted into the democratic process and subordinated to the executive branch."

Asked about the purchase of arms by Chile, Gonzalez said the only information he has on the subject is that provided by unofficial reports. He said that the Argentine Armed Forces "will have a deterrent mission and a defense capacity in keeping with our country's current situation and the country we plan to have in the future."

Requests Discharge

PY1805012691 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1322 GMT 17 May 91

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 17 May (NA)—Retired Brigadier Ernesto Crespo, former Air Force chief of staff, has asked to be discharged from the Air Force because he would rather "not engage in a controversy" with President Carlos Menem over the issue of deactivating the Condor-2 project. Crespo added that he believes the president "is being very ill-advised."

Crespo, Air Force chief during the administration of Raul Alfonsin, asked that he be discharged from the Air Force after 42 years of service. He noted that he is not only giving up his salary but also the "social security and other benefits."

He argued that his request for discharge is based on "the nature of the public debate that prompted the differing opinion" he has about the deactivation of the Condor-2 project. He added that out of respect for "Mr. President" he does not want to "partake in a personal dialectical debate with him."

Crespo requested that he be dropped from the Air Force rolls a few hours after it was announced that President Menem had requested summary proceedings for remarks he made to journalists to the effect that if certain objectives are not fulfilled, Argentina will become a "banana republic."

He denied that his remarks had a political objective and claimed that he was only referring to the scientific and technical aspects of the project developed by the Air Force. "If I am charged with making a political statement every time I express an idea as a military officer, I will have to live shut up inside my house," he said.

Crespo added that his observations on the Condor project "were meant to contribute to preserving something I considered very important. "I did not mean to annoy the president with that," he stated. [passage omitted]

Missile Project Viewed

PY1805172491 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2134 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (TELAM)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo said today that Argentina "needs to know 100 percent of the truth" about the nature of the project to develop the "Condor-2" missile. He added that the Foreign Ministry "has not authorized the sale of any missile technology abroad."

Cavallo told former Air Force Commander Brigadier Julio Crespo: "From the viewpoint of my own economic and logical analysis, I cannot understand why a country should supply the Argentine Air Force with funds to develop a missile without the Air Force—or Argentina as a nation—committing itself to transferring that technology."

He said this is "the first point that makes me realize there has been an illegal situation, a commitment to export technology without the participation of the Argentine Foreign Ministry and the Economy Ministry, as is established by law."

Cavallo recalled that while at the Foreign Ministry he did not find any document signed by former Foreign Minister Dante Caputo or the former Foreign Ministry under secretary authorizing the transfer of Condor fuel technology to another country. He said the document would also have to be signed by former Economic Coordination Under Secretary Adolfo Canitrot.

In a telephone interview aired today on a radio program conducted by Bernardo Neustadt, Cavallo told Crespo: "I do not know whether the Ministries of Foreign Relations and Economy issued a secret resolution—of which no document was left at the Foreign Ministry—or whether it was a violation of the law establishing the two ministries' control of the sale of weapons abroad."

Army Gives 20-Percent 'Reimbursement' to Officers

PY1805233891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1804 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 May (NA)—The Argentine Army has granted a reimbursement in lieu of rations equivalent to 20 percent of salary to all officers and NCO's in an effort to curb rising demands for salary increases.

The Army used its own funds for this payment, which was made on 17 May, in view of the Economy Ministry's refusal to grant salary hikes that would have to be financed by the Treasury.

The Navy has already implemented a similar measure and the Air Force is expected to follow suit in the near future.

Commander Reviews Navy's Responsibilities

PY1805182891 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1424 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (NA)—Navy Chief of Staff Admiral Jorge Ferrer maintained today that "the military potential of a country must not only ensure its protection through dissuasive power, it must also be capable of projecting national interests at a time and place determined by political decisions."

Regarding this last point, he gave as an example Argentina's participation in the Persian Gulf conflict through a political decision that he considered the "most important one to be made in this century."

He also stated that the Navy's system and style is that of "trying to debate sensitive topics that pertain to national security at an adequate level and within adequate bounds with the indispensable public responsibility and prudence that the Republic and Argentine society merit."

Ferrer maintained that the Navy "today reaffirms its conviction with regard to the reasons for its existence and its responsibilities within the framework of the Constitution and the law."

He added: "Among these important topics the quality and dignity of Navy personnel have the highest priority in every deed and idea of the Navy's leadership and the Council of Admirals."

He stressed that this personally represents "a very important responsibility as commander of the Navy and its representative before the highest levels of the state."

"Military equilibrium is fundamental and an essential condition for sensible regional integration," he emphasized.

He said this is so "because an imbalance of capabilities in this aspect could mean failure for the national project of some of the protagonists or dissolution as an independent state."

He added that although the previous two-faceted world "entailed serious danger, at the same time it moderated and controlled regional events."

Ferrer maintained that currently, with a one-faceted world each nation "must more than ever conceive and establish its role, its level of freedom of action, and the nature of its international influence."

He said "political perception, economic potential, and military capability to preserve and dissuade, but also as an indispensable contribution toward international legality and security," are necessary to act in the international arena.

In this respect, the admiral said it is not true that military potential is "an exclusive characteristic of developed countries," because having that capability means "an active participation, it helps increase the capability for negotiation, and it helps prevent international isolation with tremendous and fatal consequences."

He then viewed Argentina's military participation in the multinational force that saw action in the Persian Gulf as "highly positive," and he urged that the republic value "in all its scope, the fact that its Armed Forces were in a position to support such a very important political decision."

He also stressed that "within the framework of the Constitution and the law, the Navy is the representative of the state on the seas and rivers."

He said that for this reason, the institution is "directly responsible for controlling the seas, thus ensuring the geopolitical and strategic scope and also an adequate level of rationality with regard to international relations as an instrument of foreign policy."

"The Navy is also responsible for Argentina's seas and rivers, including their resources, ecology, and potential," he added.

Ferrer made these remarks during a ceremony held today to celebrate Navy Day. The ceremony was held in the heliport of the Libertad Building with the participation of President Carlos Menem.

Defense Ministry Cuts Military Offices Abroad

PY1905225o91 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 May 91 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The Defence Ministry dismantled 20 percent of Argentina's military offices in embassies abroad, in accordance with the guidelines set by the Armed Forces Restructuring Plan, it was announced yesterday. The measure affects military attaches in Mexico, Egypt, Panama, Japan, Venezuela, Colombia and Panama [as published], in what constitutes the first such move in twenty years. Cuts in the number of military personnel serving in the Inter-American Board and the Inter-American Defence Academy were also announced.

Justice Minister Swears In 3 Under Secretaries

PY1905224891 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 May 91 p 11

[From the "Argentina in Brief" column]

[Text] Justice Minister Leon Arslanian swore in his three undersecretaries yesterday evening during a ceremony at the premises of the newly created ministry. Arslanian highlighted the experience and knowledge of the new undersecretaries: Hugo Rodriguez Sanudo (Justice), Oscar Lujan Fappiano (Legislative Affairs) and Osvaldo Castruccio (Registry Affairs). The minister stressed the need to "update judicial procedures in order to make justice more efficient."

Unidentified Persons Shoot at Legislator's Home

PY1805012291 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The provincial police are investigating a report filed by Justicialist legislator Maximo Guzman, who has stated that unidentified individuals shot at his home in Victorica. Police experts determined that the bullets were fired from a long-range .22-caliber weapon and that various shots hit the door of the legislator's house. Fortunately no one was injured.

Cavallo, Aides Leave For Wheat Talks in Brazil

PY1705234891 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2204 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 17 May (TELAM)—At 1855 today Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo left the Aeroparque military base for Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). He is accompanied by Juan Carlos Schiaretti, industry and commerce under secretary, and Planning Under Secretary Vittorio Orsi.

Cavallo, who left on board the Army A-E 175 aircraft, did not make any remarks upon leaving the country. He is scheduled to return home tomorrow at 1830.

Sierra Pintada Uranium Complex To Reopen

PY2005022491 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1853 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Mendoza, 18 May (NA)—The Sierra Pintada mining complex, the primary Argentine uranium reserve, will resume activities in July. Uranium concentration to obtain pellets to fuel nuclear reactors will also take place there.

This report was released by Carlos Guillermo Martin, head of the mining complex, during a lecture at the plant, which is in the 25 de Mayo District, San Rafael Department, 240 km south of Mendoza. Martin noted that Sierra Pintada has been inactive for some time due to restrictive budget measures adopted by the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) and due to the stock of processed uranium ore.

When the plant resumes activities in July, it will again produce an ore containing between 800 and 900 grams of uranium per metric ton. After the concentration process, the ratio is 700 kg of uranium per metric ton.

Previously, the uranium concentration took place in Cordoba and its target was the nuclear plants of Atucha 1, Embalse de Rio Tercero, and Atucha 2, which is under construction.

Martin added that there are 185 people working in Sierra Pintada, although this figure could rise to 300, including contractors and security agents.

State Oil Company Finds Two New Gas Deposits

PY1705221691 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 17 May 91 p 5

[Text] Two exploration wells of the state petroleum company YPF [Government Oil Deposits] have struck liquefied and natural gas in new areas of production, according to yesterday's company press release. El Porton x-3 is in the northeast of Neuquen province on the border with the province of Mendoza and Campo Boleadoras xp-7 is situated 150 km northeast of Rio Gallegos in Santa Cruz province.

Bolivia

Meeting With U.S. Drug Chief 'Very Good'

PY1705132291 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 May 91

[Relay from Santa Cruz]

[Text] President Jaime Paz Zamora arrived in Santa Cruz last night. In an interview he denied that an agreement for the extradition of drug traffickers to the United States had been outlined during his meeting with Bob Martinez. The chief of state maintained that his meeting with the top U.S. antinarcotics authority was of an informative nature and will open the way to increased cooperation with Bolivia.

Paz Zamora stated that the meeting was very good, and he stressed that it allowed Bolivia to make its strategy for eradicating drug trafficking known in a direct manner.

The president was scheduled to hand over the presidency to Vice President Luis Ossio early this morning in Viru Viru International Airport prior to a news conference and his departure for Caracas, where he will meet with his Andean colleagues.

Supreme Court Judges Comment on Reinstatement

PY2005012291 La Paz Radio Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Sucre—At around 1700 yesterday we talked with Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas Fernandez in La Paz about his return to the bench. During our conversation, the judges on trial received the Senate's official notification of the resolution suspending all precautionary measures against them. This is what they said:

[Begin Oblitas recording] We have just received the Senate's notification. We are taking note of it. [end recording]

Oblitas emphasized: We are returning to Sucre with our heads high, our consciences at ease, without hate or love, to fulfill the duties for which we have been appointed.

Edgar Oblitas can be legally considered Supreme Court president as of 1700 this afternoon.

The conflict of powers caused a great deal of damage to democracy and the country. What we have learned from the experience should be useful in seeking more continuous coordination between the three branches of government for the fullest consolidation of the state of law. This

is what Supreme Court President Edgar Oblitas Fernandez said minutes after receiving the Senate's notification of the suspension of precautionary measures against them:

[Begin recording] We hereby express our gratitude to the people of Chuquisaca and of the capital of the Republic for being at the vanguard of the uncompromising civic struggle for those values in the country. The capital has once more shown the spirit of freedom and democracy that guided our fatherland. [end recording]

We were also able to talk with Justice Julio Urquizu:

[Begin recording] We are moved because justice has prevailed. The sole winners were democracy, the people, the law, and the Constitution. [end recording]

Justice Adan Soira Diez Canseco, obviously moved after learning of the official notification of the resolution suspending all precautionary measures said:

[Begin recording] First I would like to send a salute with all my heart and gratitude to Sucre. After more than eight years as justice I can talk to Sucre's people about my love and affection for them. I want to tell them [words indistinct] served in the Supreme Court with full honesty. [end recording]

Document Criticizing Leadership Released

PY1805134491 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 14 May 91 p 5

[Text] A group of longtime Nationalist Revolutionary Movement (MNR) militants, including Jorge Alderete Rosales, Rosa Lema Dolz de Lluch, and Luis Antezana Ergueta, have denounced Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's leadership and the results of the August 1990 special convention in a document that was released over the weekend.

The new party division aggravates the situation created by a split by the group headed by legislators Edwin Rodriguez, Manuel Paz Soruco, and Emilio Lopez Arteaga, who denounced Sanchez de Lozada's leadership and accused him of "leading through a strict chain of command system" and of destroying "revolutionary nationalism."

A third group presided over by Samuel Gallardo Lozada formed an MNR Defense Committee, expressing similar reservations.

The document signed by Jorge Alderete Rosales, former social defense undersecretary and one of former President Victor Paz Estenssoro's trusted men, advocates "the defense of revolutionary nationalism and a struggle against slanderous colonialism."

The document rejects the fact that the MNR, "a party that represents the humble and the exploited could be led by a mine magnate who represents colonialist plutocracy and who, as a consequence, has objectives and interests opposed to those of the Bolivian people."

The group states its firm decision to fight and defend the original principles of the national left's revolutionary nationalism; that is, its "anti-imperialist, anti-feudal, and anti-oligarchical" character. The group also promises to fight for "a democratic and popular organization based on class alliances."

The group advocates the validity of the 1985 Declaration of Principles and traditional internal MNR regulation and has decided to form a provisional National Executive Committee, which will be headed by a group of members until a national convention can elect a new leadership.

Acting MNR President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada, elected at the August 1990 special convention, regretted Alderete's and the signatory group's attitude.

"I regret their attitude because the people who signed the document are personal friends, people of proven honesty and loyalty, but the MNR is a democratic party and anyone can say what he pleases," Sanchez de Lozada said.

The MNR acting president said that he was optimistic about "finding a new consensus" to continue "with this national project, which is so important."

Sanchez stressed the importance of the new party registration list, which will confirm "the support of party militants" and will confirm the affiliation of new members.

This new registration list will be used to elect representatives for the national convention scheduled for the last quarter of 1991.

Sanchez de Lozada said the MNR wants to be an open, democratic party, useful to the nation and to the Bolivian people.

MNR Secretary General German Quiroga believes the dissidents' attitude is due to an internal party process, which after many years will again "return the party's leadership to the community."

Quiroga said that many longtime MNR leaders have lost contact with the grassroots and are concerned because they know they will have to adapt to new party regulations to climb to leadership positions.

"That is the cost a party has to pay to renew itself. Those who are sure to lose have taken the wrong path of insulting and slandering others. That is an old habit the MNR wants to eradicate," Quiroga concluded.

Intelligence Chief Punches Subordinate, Relieved

PY1805141291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0148 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] La Paz, 15 May (EFE)—Military sources reported today that General Juan Vera Antezana, chief of the Bolivian Army Intelligence Service, was relieved of his post for beating a second lieutenant who was walking on a street arm-in-arm with his girlfriend.

General Jorge Moreira, Bolivian Armed Forces commander in chief, has reported that Gen. Vera Antezana, who is also 2d Army Department commander, will also face a pretrial inquest by the permanent tribunal of the Military Court.

According to a report, Second Lieutenant Miguel Agreda Mendivil told his superiors that on 10 May, as he was walking on a street in La Paz arm-in-arm with his girlfriend, he was reprimanded by Gen. Vera Antezana, who was wearing civilian clothing, for committing "immoral acts" and because "only a wife or mother can walk arm-in-arm."

On 13 May, the second lieutenant was summoned to Gen. Vera Antezana's office. After reprimanding him again, Gen. Vera Antezana punched him in the face several times, breaking his glasses and causing a nosebleed, in addition to scratching him. Finally, the general threatened him with a pistol.

Vera Antezana was military rector of the Greater University of San Simon in Cochabamba and education minister during the government of General Luis Garcia Meza (1980-1981), who accrued the largest number of accusations of human rights violations.

Brazil

No 'Final Decision' on Argentine Wheat Purchase

PY1905002691 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2233 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Rio de Janeiro, 18 May (EFE)—Brazilian and Argentine Economy Ministers Marcilio Marques Moreira and Domingo Cavallo, respectively, met in Rio de Janeiro today but failed to arrive at a final decision regarding a Brazilian purchase of 2 million tons of wheat from Argentina which had been agreed on in February.

Argentina's sale of wheat to Brazil was jeopardized by a U.S. offer to sell 700,000 tons of subsidized wheat to Brazilian companies at prices cheaper than those charged for Argentine grain.

The Argentine and Brazilian economy ministers met for four hours and decided to set up a joint commission made up of Brazilian Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera, Brazilian National Economy Secretary Dorothea Werneck, a member of the Argentine National Agriculture Secretariat, and Juan Schiaretti, Argentine industries and trade under secretary. This commission, which will be entrusted with solving the wheat issue, will meet next week, although the official sources who conveyed this information did not specify where the meeting will be held.

The controversial U.S. offer to sell subsidized wheat to Brazil, one of the main buyers of Argentine wheat, prompted an immediate Argentine protest and Minister Cavallo's unexpected trip to Rio de Janeiro on the evening of 17 May.

After their meeting the ministers released a joint communique which promised they would meet again to "broaden the dialogue" and to expand bilateral relations for the economic integration of the two countries within the framework of the Common Market of the South (Mercosur).

In 1990 Brazil purchased 2 million tons of wheat from Argentina. This deal alone represented 10 percent of the total amount of bilateral trade, worth $2 billion. Bilateral trade between Argentina and Brazil has been growing steadily over the last few years.

Minister Denies Purchase

PY1705213491 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2046 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Brasilia, 17 May (EFE)—Brazilian Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera announced today that Brazil would not buy a 700,000-ton shipment of subsidized wheat from the United States because it would violate agreements Brazil has signed with Argentina.

"The Brazilian Government will not import that wheat," Cabrera said. He added that he has no official knowledge about the U.S. offer, which has caused a great controversy in Argentina, Brazil's main supplier of grain.

High-ranking Brazilian and Argentine Government officials will meet today and tomorrow in Rio de Janeiro to discuss the U.S. offer, which the Foreign and Economy Ministries avoided discussing this week.

Brazilian acting Foreign Minister Marcos Azambuja and Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister Juan Carlos Olima will discuss this subject and other bilateral issues connected to regional integration today in Rio de Janeiro. The economy ministers of the two countries, Marcilio Marques Moreira and Domingo Cavallo, will hold a working meeting in Rio de Janeiro tomorrow.

The Argentine Government has protested to the U.S. Government over an offer to sell to Brazil wheat which has been subsidized by $20 to $40 per ton.

At the Uruguay Round of GATT talks, Brazil, Argentina, and other South American countries, most of which export agriculture products, oppose the subventions granted in the countries of the EEC.

Agriculture Ministry To Release Rural Credits

PY1905012891 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] The Agriculture Ministry will release rural credit resources within 15 days. This year's investments in the agriculture sector are estimated to total 900 billion cruzeiros.

This was announced by Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabrera, who held a meeting with Bank of Brazil Chairman Lafaiete Coutinho to discuss the timetable for the release of these resources. Agriculture Minister Antonio Cabreira said farmers should not be concerned because costs and interest rates for the rural credit will be announced during the first week of June.

Colombia

Agreement Between Government, CGSB Cited

PA1705192591 Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1816 GMT 17 May 91

["Text" of Cravo Norte Agreement signed by representatives of the Colombian Government and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CGSB) in Cravo Norte on 17 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Gathered in the Jose Antonio Galan School in Cravo Norte, Arauca Intendancy, and after three days of talks in the presence of the commissions appointed by the National Constituent Assembly, the House of Representatives, and other observers, the representatives of the government and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board agree to:

1. Hold direct talks, beginning on 1 June 1991, initially in Caracas, Venezuela, between representatives with decision-making authority aimed at seeking a negotiated solution to the armed confrontation.

It should be understood that after the Caracas talks conclude and once the circumstances and conditions permit shifting the site of the talks, the negotiations will continue in a city in Colombia, which will be defined by the parties within the framework of the agenda that the high commissioners agree on or establish.

2. The Colombian Government will take steps with the government of the sisterly nation of Venezuela and ask it to authorize the city of Caracas as the site for holding the dialogue.

3. Should the Colombian Government receive the approval of the Venezuelan Government to begin the talks in Caracas, the Colombian Government pledges to guarantee the security and transfer of the commissioners of the CGSB to the place selected for holding the talks.

4. The Colombian Government confirms its commitment to return the members of the CGSB to Colombia under the same conditions of their departure, without conditioning this commitmment to the results of the talks.

5. The parties agree to establish channels of communication between them, beginning on 20 May, to expedite the necessary requirements for holding the meeting abroad.

6. Both the representatives of the government and the CGSB want to recognize the valuable assistance given by the government of the sisterly nation of Venezuela during this phase of the process. In addition, the parties want to thank the Araucan people, the Arauca Intendancy authorities, and the municipal officials of Cravo Norte for their support, which permitted the peace talks to take place under the best conditions.

[Signed] Deputy Government Minister Andres Gonzalez Diaz, presidential adviser for peace Carlos Eduardo Jaramillo, Lucia Gonzalez, Daniel Aldana Mutis, Miguel Suarez Piragua, Carlos Rodado Noriega, Carlos Fernando Giraldo, Aida Abella, Rosemberg Pabon, Dario Mejia, Rafael Serrano Prada, Henry Villan Gonzalez, Alvaro Leyva Duran, USO [Workers Trade Union] President Cesar Carrillo, Arauca Intendant Daniel Gomez, Cravo Norte Mayor Oscar Mijares, and presidential peace advisers Gonzalo de Francisco and Tomas Concha

Gaviria 'Moderately Optimistic'

PA2005034791 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria Trujillo says he is moderately optimistic about the peace talks to be held on 1 June between the national government and the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board. I am moderately optimistic because we must develop some credibility with these guerrilla groups, as similar situations have come up with other movements that have joined civilian life, President Gaviria Trujillo said.

He pointed out that despite the skepticism that surrounded the negotiations with the groups that already have abandoned their weapons, those peace dialogues led to peace processes that are irreversible and definite, the president emphasized. He added that he hoped terrorist and violent actions would end during the process of conversations, as this would imbue this process that is about to begin with true confidence.

He said that the purpose of these conversations should lead to the demobilization of the rebel groups, the discontinuation of violence, and the search for mechanisms that will allow peaceful coexistence.

Army Supports Efforts

PA1705163491 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1730 GMT 14 May 91

[Text] Colombia's military forces today offered their full support and solidarity to President Cesar Gaviria's peace efforts. The president, in turn, said that within the next few days he will announce a national antiviolence plan. Gaviria also stated the government's position with regard to the military service and the controversial conscientious objection issue.

At a meeting on 14 May with the high command at the Superior War College, President Gaviria's leadership as commander in chief of the Armed Forces was acknowledged.

[Begin General Luis E. Rocca recording] The job you have done as president has allowed Colombia to undergo peacefully one of the most decisive phases of its history. Once again, rest assured that you are backed by a cohesive military force that is working to achieve the proposals outlined by your government and is willing to sacrifice itself if that would help to strengthen our democracy. [end recording]

President Gaviria reiterated his pledge to the country to confront its various forms of violence and again showed his unwavering leadership in designing a strategy and policy for dealing with public order nationwide.

[Begin Gaviria recording] My strategy will focus on three broad goals: To guarantee that a monopoly on the use of

force is in the hands of armed state institutions in accordance with the constitutional mandate, to recover the law's ability to punish crime and combat impunity, and, finally, to extend state institutional coverage to the entire country. [end recording]

With regard to conscientious objection as a means of evading obligatory military service, which is being debated at the Constituent Assembly, the president made a few remarks:

[Begin Gaviria recording] Conscientious objection cannot be used as an excuse to evade one's duty to the fatherland or as a pretext by individuals who lack the valor and courage that exalt the members of the military forces. [end recording]

Army Commander on Talks

PA2005015991 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 May 91

[Text] Army Commander General Manuel Alberto Murillo has stated that he is realistic about the peace process that the government is conducting with the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CGSB], and he hopes the results will be satisfactory for the country. Gen. Murillo told Radio Cadena Nacional that the outcome of the peace process is something that is out of the Army's control. I wish success and good luck to those who are working on the peace process.

We are more realistic than optimistic. We hope the government's positive program will be accepted, Gen. Murillo added. The Army commander said that if the peace process with the CGSB works out, this would make the authorities' work easier as development and security complement each other.

Gen. Murillo also asked the guerrillas to show their desire for peace so everyone will believe in them and in the new dialogue process they recently began with the national government. The officer also said that he is expecting the guerrillas to show their desire for peace so that there will be faith in the talks that began in Cravo Norte, Arauca, and the talks that will continue later in Venezuela.

After considering that the military is complying with its mission in maintaining public order, he emphasized that the military should not get involved in the peace talks. The Army commander added that he is realiistic and optimistic [as heard] about the new peace talks that have begun in Colombia, and he wished good luck to the parties involved.

Gen. Murillo said that the Army is complying with its constitutional duty of maintaining tranquillity and that there are no legal orders for arresting Pablo Escobar Gaviria, chief of the Medellin Cartel.

Gaviria Plan Against Violence To Be Released

PA2005030491 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0131 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] President Cesar Gaviria will announce officially his national strategy against violence on 22 May. He will be putting on paper each and every formula the government has identified to face the guerrillas, drug trafficking, paramilitary groups, and common crime. This will be done in a joint and coordinated manner. The plan will be published as a supplement in the country's newspapers. It will be 46 pages long, contain seven major headings, and will be illustrated with photographs, graphs, and statistics on violence in the last decade.

Here are its basic points: The government plan to combat violence basically consists of the strengthening of the administration of justice, the defense of human rights, and the coordination of security by regions and sectors to protect and guarantee peace. Justice will be accelerated through a judicial system that will permit the prompt enforcement of the law. Institutions to watch over respect for human rights throughout the country will be created with the participation of the Attorney General's Office to prevent disappearances, tortures, and intimidation. These new mechanisms will seek to decentralize the elements involved in the handling of public order. In other words, the departmental and municipal councils will have more functions.

The plan also talks of the need to disarm the guerrillas and all the criminal groups which operate in the country, as well as the individuals who are armed to defend themselves from criminals. The strategy to combat violence was prepared by the Advisory Board on National Security, intelligence agencies, and the Advisory Board on Peace. The plan also contains a program to provide help and attention for young people to prevent the increase in youth gangs.

With this strategy, President Cesar Gaviria's administration seeks to have the community heard in the security councils and that they work permanently to preserve peace. In short, it is an attempt to integrate all the institutions of the state and society under a single objective: the eradication of violence.

Extraditables Order Release of Journalists

PA2005013791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0037 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 19 May (EFE)—The Extraditables, the armed wing of the Medellin drug cartel, today announced the immediate release of journalists Francisco Santos Calderon and Maruja Pachon de Villamizar, who were kidnapped on 19 September and 7 November 1990, respectively.

The order to release the journalists, which should be implemented in the next few hours, was announced in a communique the clandestine organization sent to the Medellin news media.

In the communique, the Extraditables said that they decided to release 29-year-old Santos Calderon and 55-year-old Maruja Pachon due to the efforts made by Father Rafael Garcia Herreros and other Colombians.

They also said they ordered the release of the two kidnapped journalists "to erase any doubts held by the National Constituent Asembly."

After the communique was received, an anonymous caller told Radio Caracol in Medellin that the two journalists will be released somewhere in Colombia "but not in Medellin or Antioquia Department."

The communique stated that "the greatest pressure exerted on the members of the Constituent Assembly is the pressure exerted by the public opinion polls conducted during the 12 years in which the extradition of Colombians has existed."

In the fifth point of the communique, the Extraditables "emphatically reject the undue interference by the U.S. Government and the pressures on members of the National Constitutent Assembly by U.S. Ambassador" (Thomas McNamara).

In the sixth and last point of the communique, the drug traffickers "called on those who have reported pressures on the National Constitutent Assembly to reveal the pressures exerted on the assembly members by the U.S. ambassador."

Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon de Villamizar are the last of a group of nine journalists kidnapped last year who are still being held by their captors.

Santos, editorial staff chief of the newspaper EL TIEMPO and son of the paper's owner, Hernando Santos Castillo, was kidnapped precisely eight months today. His driver, Oromancio Ibanez, was killed in the action.

'Text' of Communique

PA2005020391 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0125 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Attention, we have a last-minute report that makes all Colombians very happy because we had been waiting for such an announcement for many months. Maruja Pachon and Francisco Santos will be released in the next few hours. This was announced by The Extraditables in a communique broadcast by the Caracol radio network. I repeat: Maruja Pachon and Francisco Santos will reportedly be freed in the next few hours. The text of the communique is as follows:

From The Extraditables to the Colombian people:

1. We have ordered the release of Francisco Santos and Maruja Pachon.

2. We made this decision as a response to the insistent requests by Father Rafael Garcia Herreros and other fellow countrymen.

3. We are taking this action to erase any doubts about pressures on our part on the National Constituent Assembly.

4. The greatest pressure on the members of the Assembly is the pressure exerted by the people in the opinion polls conducted during the 12 years in which the extradition of Colombians has existed.

5. We emphatically reject the undue interference by the U.S. Government and the pressures exerted on members of the Assembly by the ambassador of that country.

6. We call on those who have reported pressures on the National Constituent Assembly to reveal the pressures exerted on the Assembly members by the U.S. ambassador.

[Signed] The Extraditables to the Colombian people; 19 May 1991

CNGSB Rebels Kill Policeman in Morales

PA1705163291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1520 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 17 May (EFE)—The authorities today reported that one policeman was killed, another wounded, and 17 others kidnapped in Morales, in northern Colombia, during an attack by members of the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board (CNGSB).

An officer, a noncommissioned officer, and 15 other policemen are in the hands of the guerrillas who fled to the foothills of the San Lucas mountain range in southern Bolivar Department.

The guerrilla incursion began on the evening of 16 May and lasted several hours until the policemen surrendered to the insurgents who were firing indiscriminately at the policemen's post in Morales.

The incident took place when government and CNGSB representatives are holding talks in Cravo Norte to discuss the possibility of reincorporating CNGSB members, namely, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and Army of National Liberation (ELN), into the peace process.

Radio stations reported that the guerrillas also attacked Cimiti, which is adjacent to Morales.

The sources added that communications with Morales were interrupted for half an hour following the attack and this is the reason why it was only today that the outcome of the incident was known.

Joint Army and police troops were dispatched to the area, military sources said.

The guerrilla offensive in Bolivar Department is taking place simultaneously with the release, in other regions of the country, of about 50 policemen and soldiers who had been kidnapped by the CNGSB this year. These releases have served to act as a "goodwill" gesture toward the dialogue in Cravo Norte.

University Closed After Student Killed

PA1705195291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1500 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Bogota, 17 May (EFE)—Antanas Mockus, rector of the National University of Colombia, today ordered the university's Bogota campus closed in the wake of violent student demonstrations on 16 May during which a student was killed.

Beatriz Sandobal, 22 years old, was killed and another student was injured when a grenade exploded in Sandobal's hands during disturbances involving a small group of demonstrators protesting on the occasion of another anniversary of the closure of the university residence halls.

Mockus said that the student who was killed was wearing a hood and, according to preliminary investigations, the device exploded before she could hurl it against antiriot forces planted in front of the university.

The university dormitories were closed in 1984 following serious incidents that caused a suspension of academic activities for a year.

[Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish at 1730 GMT on 17 May broadcasts a similar, one-minute report that adds the following: "The police said that a device exploded inside the university student's purse. University officials, in a brief communique, explained that the student was wearing a hood and was among a group of rebellious students, but did not say that she was carrying the explosive. In the halls of the university this morning it was said that the police hurled the explosive device."]

Pact With Venezuela Signed on Border Crime

PA1905033991 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] The Colombian and Venezuelan Governments have agreed to work together along the border area to fight various types of crime. The defense ministers of the two countries, General Oscar Botero Retrepo of Colombia and Vice Admiral Hector Jurado Toro of Venezuela, signed an agreement to control illegal drug trafficking, subversion, immigration, contraband, and organized crime.

The operations will include air, land, and water patrols along the border area, as well as the implementation of a communications system that will allow the continuous exchange of information on the situation in the area. The agreement also provides for the creation of a permanent bilateral commission in charge of examining common problems that affect the border, particularly to try to detect attempts by drug traffickers to purchase land in the region.

The agreement also calls for a meeting to be held between the general commanders of the Colombian Armed Forces and the Venezuelan Military Command during the first half of June.

Ecuador

President Decides To Remain in Andean Pact

PA1705133191 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0355 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Quito, 16 May (DPA)—Ecuador announced tonight its decision to remain in the Andean Pact and agreed to the creation of a free trade area, but indicated that it will request special conditions for the elimination of tariff barriers among the five countries that make up the group.

The announcement, made by President Rodrigo Borja on a national radio and television network, came only a few hours before the beginning of a summit meeting in Caracas of the presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

"To isolate ourselves would be economic suicide," Borja said in making the announcement at the end of six months of intensive internal consultations. "We have no choice," the president said, "We must prepare ourselves for competition."

The Ecuadoran president will travel to Caracas early Friday morning to participate in the regional summit, where participants will decide to establish a free trade zone in 1992 as the first step toward the establishment of a common market in 1995. This market will encompass five countries and 80 million people.

Borja said that Ecuador will request that the reduction of its trade tariffs be effected in two phases, the first simultaneously with the other four countries on 31 December and the second six months later, on 30 June 1992, when all customs barriers will be eliminated within the Andean subregion.

Debt Negotiations Suspended

PA2005031791 Paris AFP in Spanish 0131 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Quito, 19 May, (AFP)—Ecuador's foreign debt negotiations with international private banks have been suspended because of the "excessive demands which the government is not willing to implement," Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja said on Sunday, 19 May.

"The Ecuadoran Government is not willing to give in to the demands made by foreign banks; our creditors are the ones who will have to give in," the president told journalists on his return from the Andean summit held in Caracas, Venezuela.

A commission in charge of renegotiating the foreign debt with international private banks returned from New York some 15 days ago, after which it was informed that the negotiations would be suspended until "a rapprochement was achieved."

The Ecuadoran foreign debt amounts to $11.5 billion, a little over half of which is owed to international private banks. The negotiations for the refinancing of $5.646 billion have been taking place for over two years. This includes $1.185 billion of unpaid interest according to the latest official figures.

"We have problems, you know it. Foreign banks are demanding what is far beyond our possibilities to pay, and now we have refused to accept those conditions. We will not accept them because we will not do anything that will hurt our country," Borja said.

According to the president, the ideal thing would have been to reach a long-term agreement for refinancing the debt, but "this agreement has not been possible because of the excessive demands made by our private creditors."

Ecuador has proposed that the principal to be paid be reduced to only 30 percent of the total, or there be a fixed annual interest rate of 2 percent, or a combination of both, which would allow for a formula based on the country's capability to pay.

"We continue to hold talks, but I am not very optimistic that we will find a solution soon," Borja said.

Asked about an alternative, Borja said: "We will continue as we are now." Ecuador has been paying 30 percent of the interest, equivalent to $130 million, every quarter.

"We could say yes," the president said when answering a question if the suspension of the negotiations was Ecuador's attitude, but at the same time he explained that the reason for all of this "is not a whim of the Ecuadoran delegation, but excessive demands made by foreign banks."

Parodi Acting President

PA1805043991 Quito Radio Quito in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Vice President Luis Parodi has assumed the Ecuadoran presidency during President Rodrigo Borja's abscence. Parodi will manage the country's affairs and remain in office as acting president until 19 May when President Borja returns from the Andean presidents' summit.

President Borja signed the decree appointing Parodi as acting president in Guayaquil before leaving for Caracas.

Edelberto Bonilla, president of the National Congress, did not assume the vice presidency of the Republic during the president's trip to Caracas because of the work pending with the mining laws.

Bonilla reported that he has sent a message to Supreme Court President Walter Guerrero asking him to assume the vice presidency.

Spanish Foreign Minister Begins Official Visit

PA2005023291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 20 May 91

[Text] Quito, 19 May (EFE)—Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez arrived in Ecuador tonight for a three-day official visit.

Fernandez-Ordonez arrived in Quito at 1845 (2345 GMT) on a special Spanish Air Force plane and was welcomed at the local airport by Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez.

The Spanish foreign minister will analyze in Quito the increase of the Spanish presence in Ecuador prior to the 1992 commemoration [of the 500th anniversary of the discovery of America] and will discuss with Cordovez the next summits of Spanish and Latin American chiefs of state and government.

On 20 May, Fernandez-Ordonez will be briefed on the restoration of San Francisco church, in Quito's historic center, the most important of the Spanish cooperation programs in this country, and he will inaugurate the project to repair the House of Benalcazar.

Spain is implementing in Ecuador various cooperation projects and financial agreements worth approximately $350 million.

The Spanish foreign minister will hold a meeting with Cordovez after meeting with Vice President Luis Parodi Valverde on 20 May.

He will meet with President Rodrigo Borja on 21 May to discuss the development of bilateral cooperation programs, relations with the European Community and its help in fighting cholera, and the events to mark the 500th anniversary. Fernandez-Ordonez will travel to Bolivia on 22 May.

Splinter Groups Deny Kidnapping Former Judge

PA1805154291 Paris AFP in Spanish 2311 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Quito, 16 May (AFP)—Leaders of the divided Ecuadoran former subversive movement Alfaro Lives, Damnit (AVC) denied today that they had participated in the recent kidnapping of a judge. The groups outlined divergent political positions that surprised the local media.

Pedro Moncada, head of the AVC Executive Command, which turned in its weapons to the church in the presence of international delegates in February, denied that the members of his group were involved in the kidnapping of former judge Agustin Aguirre.

The victim, who was released on Sunday after a ransom of 30 million sucres ($29,000) was paid, said that his kidnappers identified themselves as members of the AVC and used the term "naive" to describe the government with which they signed a peace agreement in March 1990.

Moncada surprised people this morning when he stated that in a few weeks he has collected 30,000 signatures of adherence to his political movement, which is now seeking peace and democracy. In addition, he made the surprising announcement that the AVC "supports" Sixto Duran Ballen, who is virtually a candidate for the presidency.

After 30 years of active membership in the rightist Social Christian Party of former President Leon Febres Cordero (1984-1988)—a party that directly fought against the AVC to the point of almost exterminating it—Duran Ballen, a former presidential candidate, resigned from the party and is now attempting to form a new political movement.

AVC had been identified as a leftist movement, since in its time it had joined Peru's Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement and Colombia's 19 April Movement to form the America Battalion, an insurgent organization that sought to be inter-American.

On the other hand, Patricio Baquero, leader of the dissident group of the AVC that refused to turn in its weapons, a man who once said that his former comrades had weapons "that they never used" and who announced that he will continue on the rebel path, denied today that his group was responsible for kidnapping Aguirre.

Baquero said he is willing to go to the Ministry of Government (Interior) to prove his innocence and that of his followers.

Baquero also maintained that when his followers have carried out "fund-recovery tasks" (as they call bank robberies and kidnappings), they have always acknowledged their participation. Moreover, he said his group has only attacked members of the bourgeoisie, not people who have accumulated wealth through honest labor.

Finally, according to local news reports, Francisco "Chico" Calderon, a member of Baquero's group, is reportedly at the Mexican Embassy in Quito seeking political asylum because of alleged police persecution.

The Mexican Embassy said only that it had no information on the subject, and refused to either confirm or deny that such a request for asylum had been made.

'Political Refuge' Granted to 3 Cuban Dissidents

PA1805162391 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 2034 GMT 16 May 91

[Text] Quito, 16 May (DPA)—The Ecuadoran Government today granted political refuge to three dissident citizens of the Cuban socialist regime who, fearing retaliatory measures, decided not to return to their country but to stay in Ecuador.

The Ecuadoran Human Rights Commission, which is headed by former Foreign Minister Julio Prado, announced that the Ecuadoran Foreign Ministry has heeded the commission's request for refuge for the three Cubans in the framework of the 1951 Geneva Convention on refugees.

Prado explained: "These are not cases of political asylum." He said that the three Cubans decided not to return to Cuba "because, according to what they said, their lives would be in danger there."

One of the refugees has been identified as Marino Gomez Beaton, a Cuban Fishing Industry Ministry official who was in Ecuador to study shrimp cultivation techniques.

The other two refugees are Carlos Felix Madrigal, who filmed on contract for Spanish television, and his wife, Diana Maria Chivino, who went to Ecuador on a contract with the Association of Writers to lecture on literature.

Paraguay

Rodriguez Delivers Independence Day Message

PY1805175491 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 16 May 91 pp 12, 13

[Text] At the end of a military parade and after greetings from cabinet members, President Rodriguez summoned journalists accredited to Government House into his office to deliver a message to the Paraguayan people on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of independence and his second year in office.

The president, who was wearing the presidential sash, started his speech by saying: "Dear workers of the press, on the occasion of the 180th anniversary of our nation's independence I would like to say that this was achieved through the efforts and sacrifices of our forefathers."

He added that on the occasion of his second year in office and the anniversary of independence, he wished to again urge "all my fellow citizens" to make a sacrifice. He said: "I would like the Paraguayan people to join me in honoring our forefathers for the efforts and sacrifices they made to forge freedom and democracy."

In view of this, he urged that all Paraguayans "make a self-examination and achieve a full reconciliation of all Paraguayans in order to be able to joyously celebrate the independence anniversary."

Rodriguez said: "I would not like to see the minds of Paraguayans filled with discontent, hatred, rancor, and indifference. I pray to Almighty God that he will show us the way and enlighten our minds; let us be forgiving. Just as there is sin, God also taught us to forgive. Let us be more friendly to our fellow human beings, let us share our hope with them."

The president said that "with these simple words" he wished to express his deep gratitude to the "media because it guides and informs the people about what they are truly interested in."

The president concluded the message to the people by saying that the people want peace, order, freedom, and justice, and, he said, "this is what I also want to achieve for all my fellow citizens."

Military Man Promises Democracy in Future

PY1705163691 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 May 91 p 3

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez yesterday attended the dedication of improvements at the Military Geographic Institute on Artigas Street, Asuncion. Brigadier General Rodolfo Davalos Chenu, director of the institute, made a speech on the occasion. In the speech, he said: "We must bear in mind that fellow countrymen were not born to attack or hurt others, but rather to understand and love each other, inspired by a common future of happiness and grandeur."

In referring to the Armed Forces, Davalos Chenu asserted: "Our determination is to provide future generations with a democracy that will mean sovereignty, dignity, and achievements for the people who, once and for all, wish to begin to enjoy their political, economic, and social freedom."

He added: "We are treading the path of democracy, and to us democracy means nothing but to serve the nation, without disagreements and disturbances, guided by the will of the people who seek the common good."

In addressing the chief of state, Davalos Chenu said: "I wish to emphasize that the nation's Armed Forces—

silently but resolutely—is the institution that is best fulfilling the terms of your historic proclamation because it works with patriotism and dedication in order to make your proposal to strive for dignity, national unity, and constant progress for the fatherland a reality."

Davalos Chenu went on to say: "The nation's Armed Forces—as of that memorable date that we recall with true gratitude to its moral and spiritual architect, Gen. Andres Rodriguez—undertook the commitment of supporting him in his actions as a soldier and governor."

The work that was dedicated included a new wing for Military Geographic Service officers and NCO's and their equipment.

At the end of Davalos Chenu's speech, Father Natalicio Zarate blessed the new building. This was followed by the cutting of a symbolic ribbon and the uncovering of a commemorative plaque. After that President Rodriguez and the other military authorities that attended the event toured the institute premises.

Itaipu Binational Statute Extended to Dec 1991

PY1805234691 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 May 91 p 10

[Excerpt] According to a diplomatic note that the Brazilian and Paraguayan foreign ministers have studied over the past few hours and are about to sign, our countries have agreed to extend the statute of the Itaipu Binational Enterprise, which expires today, until 31 December 1991. They have also charged the board of directors with drafting a new statute which must be submitted for study and evaluation before 30 October 1991.

This fully confirms Foreign Minister Alexis Frutos Vaesken's announcement that the countries would resort to an extension of the Itaipu statute in accordance with Annex A of the treaty signed by Paraguay and Brazil in 1973.

The current statute, which was to be in force from 17 May 1986 to 17 May 1991, was agreed upon through a diplomatic note signed by the two foreign ministries on 28 January 1986.

However, in view of the need to thoroughly analyze the enterprise's new administrative and technical structure, taking into account the fact that the colossal engineering work has now concluded and that there is no justification for maintaining an organization that was created to fulfill previous requirements, the two countries agreed that it would be appropriate to extend the agreement for a rather short period, allowing enough time to carry out a thorough study of the new administrative organization of the enterprise.

On the basis of these points, the Itaipu statute will be extended until 31 December 1991. At the same time the two governments have charged Itaipu management with drafting a new statute which must be submitted for study and evaluation by 30 October to achieve final approval. [passage omitted]

National Antidrug Secretariat Established

PY1805231891 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 17 May 91 p 10

[Text] In view of the need to coordinate and direct the activities carried out by all government and nongovernment agencies in drug prevention, repression, and rehabilitation programs, the government yesterday established the National Antidrug Secretariat [Secretaria Nacional Antidroga] (Senad).

According to Decree No. 9528, this secretariat will be subordinated to the Presidency and headed by an executive secretary and deputy secretary who will be appointed by executive branch decree.

Because drug addiction and drug trafficking have become serious international problems, the executive branch believes it necessary to coordinate the actions of the many institutions involved in the fight against drugs, a scourge that affects our modern-day world.

The authorities hope all institutions will sponsor, cooperate in, and carry out specific actions within the framework of their specific duties to help in the fight against drugs, as this is a very complex issue.

Furthermore, the Paraguayan Government has signed international agreements, conventions, treaties, and commitments to effectively cooperate in the eradication of this terrible evil. The Senad will fulfill an important task by coordinating actions that will help achieve progress in the fight against drug addiction and drug trafficking.

Peru

Government Avows Commitment to Peace Council

PY2005002291 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 12 May 91 p 2

[Text] Prime Minister Carlos Torres y Torres Lara yesterday reiterated the government's commitment to sponsor and support the creation of a National Council for Peace that will be made up of representatives from all civilian sectors and will be responsible for studying proposals and alternatives for pacification of the country.

Torres y Torres Lara said that the Council for Peace will not be a state organization and the government will "in no way interfere with it." The prime minister said the council could be headed by the Catholic Church.

Torres announced that the government will sponsor the creation of similar councils in all regions to consolidate the pacification process and create "a culture for peace."

"All of civilian society must participate in this endeavor because the government already heads the Unified Command for Pacification and directs the Operations Command for the Fight Against Subversion, in which the president has a role," Torres said.

During an interview on the program "Saturday's Topic for Radioprogramas del Peru," the prime minister revealed

details of the future National Council for Peace which, he said, will be officially convened by the church.

Torres y Torres Lara said that the council will be made up of representatives of political parties, labor and peasant organizations, and professional schools.

"The council will have a total of 50 to 60 people who will function as a convention for national debate. To streamline the dialogue and the work, the council will elect an executive committee made up of five or six representatives who will put together proposals for society's consideration."

The prime minister said emphatically that the government will only sponsor creation of the council. Torres said the government may or may not take up council suggestions and "will be under no obligation to accept its proposals."

Torres said, however, that his office will do everything it can to help the council and the police and Armed Forces will do likewise.

"The Council for Peace will advise the government and will orient society in the fight against subversion," the minister said.

Human Rights Situation Called 'Regrettable'

PY1805155091 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 13 May 91 pp 14, 15

[Excerpts] Lucio Zambrano Mejia, senior prosecutor for the Huanuco, Pasco, and Ucayali court district, has stated that the human rights situation in Peru is regrettable and that the disappearance of over 3,000 people in the past 11 years has been reported in his jurisdiction alone. [passage omitted]

Zambrano Mejia said the report prepared by the Andean Bar Association is alarming; therefore, the United Nations will soon be asked to send a special observer to Peru. [passage omitted]

Another suggestion is that the church propose and start a dialogue with the forces that have taken up arms "in a search for the peace Peru badly needs." [passage omitted]

The judge said a perfect example showing that human rights are violated in Peru is the fact that in his jurisdiction there have been cases of abuse by policemen and military officers in seven provinces and various sectors.

The agitated provinces are Padre Abad, Purus, Ucayali, Puerto Inca, Honoria, Aucayacu, and Leoncio Prado. The number of missing people in these provinces and other sectors is outrageous.

Zambrano said the disappearance of more than 3,000 people has been reported to his court since a wave of violence was unleashed in the country, causing thousands of Peruvian deaths.

The disappearance of almost 2,000 people has been reported in Ucayali and a similar situation prevails in Huanuco, especially in Leoncio Prado Province, where some 500 peasants are missing.

Among them is the judge of Ponce Cristobal Province himself. Judge Mario Pinto disappeared from town suddenly but he returned two months later with broken arms and legs. Pinto, however, has still not filed a report before the Huanuco court.

In Pasco, Alcides Carrion Province, the relatives of some 500 peasants have also reported their disappearances.

Zambrano said that according to the relatives and local people, members of the Armed Forces and police who are in charge of security for the areas agitated by terrorism are responsible for these disappearances.

"The people blame the military," said Zambrano.

He also pointed out that there is a possibility that the missing people are being forced, through threats or other coercive measures, to join armed groups.

Zambrano commented: "It is difficult to say in which group the number of missing people is the largest."

"Many people have asserted, however, that their relatives were taken alive to military or police barracks by members of the Armed Forces, but they never came back." [passage omitted]

Moreover, Zambrano said court officials have no problems in entering military or police premises "because the members of these forces are aware that they cannot prevent us from carrying out our duties nor can they arbitrarily detain people."

Zambrano said the Army's behavior has varied in the three departments. "They currently allow us enter their barracks when there are reports of missing people." [passage omitted]

"Many times the military come up with a paper signed by the missing person himself certifying that he has left the premises safe and sound."

Zambrano said that "this procedure seems to be prefabricated or previously prepared;" he added that the current situation has started to gradually change.

Measures Implemented To Increase Revenues

PY1805162891 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 May 91 p 3

[Text] Economy and Finance Minister Carlos Bolona Behr yesterday announced emergency measures aimed at correcting a pronounced fiscal imbalance that could jeopardize the economic stabilization program.

Minister Bolona Behr announced periodic increases in the price of gasoline, as well as a "solidarity tax" that will be paid by public servants earning monthly salaries higher than 300 million intis. This "solidarity tax" will yield funds to improve the salaries of those in lower remuneration brackets. He said the decision to increase salaries, beginning with the lowest brackets, will be made next week.

He also announced that the tax base will be expanded and the National Superintendency of Tax Administration

(Sunat) will be restructured "because the objective of raising revenues to 12 percent of the GDP was not attained."

At the end of a four-hour meeting with the Joint Budget Committee, the economy and finance minister affirmed that the economic program is in motion but fiscal revenues are not up to par; consequently, more revenues should be raised to balance the treasury's cash flow.

After explaining that the fiscal imbalance amounts to 4 percent, having collected only 8 percent of the GDP instead of the programmed 12 percent, Minister Bolona Behr said that without resorting to the gradualism of the APRA [American Popular Revolutionary Alliance] government, fuel prices will be periodically readjusted to the level of inflation or to a level below inflation.

Pointing out that these emergency measures are intended to impose strong fiscal discipline, the minister said "a moderate readjustment in fuel prices will be implemented soon and future monthly readjustments will follow the inflationary trend, which we will try to bring down."

Another measure announced to increase revenues is assessment of a "solidarity tax." The minister explained that a 10 percent tax will be levied on public salaries higher than 300 million intis, especially in state enterprises.

Monthly salaries above 500 million intis will be assessed a 15 percent "solidarity tax." For example, someone making 1 billion intis will have to pay 150 million intis in "solidarity tax."

The minister also said that in addition to improving tax collection by restructuring Sunat, it will be necessary to adopt other tax measures. He mentioned the possibility of either increasing the IGV (General Sales Tax) or broadening the base for its application.

Minister Bolona Behr said: "The IGV should be our primary tax, not the fuel tax."

The minister announced that probably next week the salary demands of various sectors of the public administration will be resolved.

He asserted that with the announced measures, the treasury's cash flow will be moderately improved, and "the budget will be modified to channel resources to priority expenditures, such as salaries, social actions, defense, and infrastructure."

He made it clear that the salary increases to be defined next week will not benefit civil servants across the board, only those in the lower brackets whose salaries are more depressed. He dismissed the possibility of granting a onetime bonus to public servants in the areas of health, education, the Armed Forces, and the police.

Minister Bolona Behr, who proposed to the Joint Budget Committee that this year's budget be restructured, pointed out that the announced changes do not mean the government program has failed "because they are not meant to maintain a freeze on all prices and indicators."

He made a point of saying "it is true that we have a recession, but it is the cost of the hyperinflation we suffered and which we had to subdue without delay as our enemy number one."

Shining Path Kills Six, Kidnaps Three

PY1905022291 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 9 May 91 p A 11

[Excerpt] Shining Path terrorists have brutally killed six community leaders from the Fundecosa mining company and the Chambara Baja and Chambara Alta mining annexes and kidnapped three others.

According to eyewitnesses, the subversives were commanded by a woman identified as "Comrade Blanca."

It has been reported that about 30 terrorists armed with guns and explosives attacked a truck with license plate VW-2252, which was being driven by Demetrio Cusipoma Nunez (29) to the Chambara Alta and Chambara Baja mining annexes in Huaura Province.

The truck was carrying Fundecosa community and union leaders, who were forced to lie down on the floor. The incident occurred in the early morning of 4 May at km 26 of the Huaura-Sayan highway.

"Comrade Blanca" later singled out several persons who were subsequently beaten, tortured, and then killed with machine-gun fire. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Marks Anniversary With Attacks

PY1905013891 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1654 GMT 18 May 91

[Excerpts] Lima, 18 May (EFE)—Five people were killed and three injured seriously on the 11th anniversary of the Shining Path Maoist guerrilla group in Peru. The 11th anniversary of the first attack perpetrated by Shining Path fell on 17 May. According to the legislative committee on violence, political violence has resulted in the deaths of 22,221 people and damage totaling $18 billion.

On 17 May alleged Shining Path members fired at a car carrying three members of the "World Mission," a nongovernmental organization which promotes the development of poor communities in Peru. Canadian citizen Norman Tarttestall [name as received] sustained bullet injuries and was dead on arrival at the hospital. Colombian Citizen Jose Chuquin was also injured, while Peruvian Citizen Jose Sirena, who escaped unharmed, was able to get his colleagues to the nearby hospital.

"World Mission" stated in a communique that the attack is an attempt to "spread fear" and obstruct its activities in Peru. [passage omitted]

In the town of Ahuac, Junin Department, in the central mountain region of Peru, a group of 13 Shining Path members yesterday killed Braulio Fernandez, a representative of the Caritas religious organization, in front of his wife and children in his house. [passage omitted]

Moreover, the "armed stoppage"—a stoppage enforced under threat of death—called for 16 and 17 May by the

Shining Path in Ayacucho, in the southern Andean region, ended yesterday. Bomb attacks against power lines caused a blackout in the city during the action, while the frightened population complied fully with the stoppage.

The Shining Path launched its campaign in Ayacucho Department on 17 May 1980 when it destroyed election material in the small town of Chuschi. The following day President Fernando Belaunde won the general election which represented Peru's return to democracy after 12 years of military government.

According to today's press reports, the National Police in Lima deactivated about 300 bombs and dynamite charges on 17 May. [passage omitted]

According to the legislative committee on violence headed by Socialist Senator Enrique Bernales, the economic losses through 11 years of Shining Path activity have been caused mainly by attacks on power lines, the repair of these lines, and the amount of time during which the industrial sector is paralyzed due to the lack of power.

Trucks Destroyed in Ayacucho

PY1905024291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0327 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Ayacucho, 16 May (EFE)—It has been officially reported in Ayacucho that "Shining Path" terrorists today burned three trucks and destroyed at least two power towers on the first day of the "armed stoppage" called for in this city by that Maoist organization.

According to Cesar Sulca, prefect (civilian governor) of Ayacucho Department, the three vehicles carrying foodstuffs were intercepted in Huascaura, on the outskirts of the city, and set on fire after the Shining Path terrorists seized their cargo.

The terrorists attacked the trucks for violating the "armed stoppage," a citizens strike imposed by the Maoist organization and enforced under threat of death. The stoppage paralyzed all public and private activities in Ayacucho today, according to people in the department capital.

It was reported that there was no transportation available for either passengers or freight and that the markets, banks, state offices, and stores were not open.

Sulca said the towers were destroyed in a area near the road that links this city with Huanta, cutting the electricity supply to Ayacucho, which was patrolled all day by military and police units following extreme security measures.

Citizens' activities were paralyzed even though the emergency zone political-military command offered security guarantees to allow the people to carry out their normal activities during the "armed stoppage," which was called for 16 and 17 May, when the 11th anniversary of the "Shining Path" uprising is noted.

The Shining Path stoppage was called to "commemorate" that date, while the Maoists today recalled the death of 33 members on 16 May 1986 near the Pampas bridge, when security forces surrounded them after they had blown up the span, as reported in the leaflets in which the terrorists announced the "armed stoppage."

Police sources have also reported that in Vilcashuaman, some 100 km south of Ayacucho, which is 575 km southeast of Lima, three people were murdered today by presumed "Shining Path" activists.

Two Policemen, 14 MRTA Terrorists Killed

PY1905023091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0217 GMT 17 May 91

[Text] Lima, 16 May (EFE)—Police sources have reported that at least 14 members of the "Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement" (MRTA) terrorist group, Guevara faction, and two policemen died in an armed clash today in the Peruvian jungle department of San Martin.

According to the report, the clash took place in the area of Tocache, in the south of the department, when a column of more than 100 MRTA terrorists tried to seize the state [palm] oil enterprise "Endepalma" but were repelled by police officers assigned to the local police station.

A sergeant and a corporal died in the clash, while four other agents were wounded.

No further details were given on the skirmish, which took place six days after some 1,000 MRTA members carried out attacks against four localities in the northern and central sectors of San Martin Department.

During the terrorist incursions on 10 May, six policemen were wounded in Saposoa and nine agents were kidnapped in Rioja and taken hostage by the rebels. In Tarapoto and Moyobamba, as in the other places, the terrorists damaged offices belonging to public organizations.

The MRTA later demanded the presence of the Red Cross as a condition to release the hostages, but the Peruvian Government rejected negotiations with the "subversive criminals." Defense Minister Jorge Torres said the security forces have their own resources to rescue them.

Court, Police Officials Comment on Agreement

PY1805215491 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0230 GMT 18 May 91

[Text] Attorney General Pedro Mendez Jurado has emphasized the importance of the antinarcotics agreement, saying it represents an expression of the willingness of two countries to face a common problem. National Police Director General Adolfo Cuba also commented on the issue.

Mendez Jurado said the antidrug agreement signed by Peru and the United States is a valuable document that represents the willingness of the highest officials of the two governments to find a solution to the drug trafficking problem. Mendez regretted, however, that the agreement, which is mainly a declaration, does not consider the important role of the attorney general's office in the fight against drug trafficking. Mendez said he trusted that the government will give decisive support to his office in the next six months, the period in which concrete measures

will be taken, because all efforts to fight drug trafficking would be ineffective without the participation of this office.

National Police Director General Adolfo Cuba pointed out that the police will continue fighting drug trafficking and that the antinarcotics agreement will strengthen their efforts.

Supreme Court President Cesar Fernandez Arce said the antidrug agreement is being evaluated by a court plenum and that a report on the matter will be released next week.

[Begin recording] [Fernandez] We are studying the agreement at the court plenum. We might have an opinion on the matter next week.

[Reporter] Could you give us any details on that report?

[Fernandez] I must be thoroughly informed before I can comment. We will have an opinion when we finish studying the agreement. [end recording]

Personnel Reduction Announced at Petroperu

PY1905032891 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 13 May 91 p 3

[Excerpt] Energy and Mines Minister Fernando Sanchez Albavera last night announced a major process of personnel rationalization at Petroperu [State Petroleum Agency], which will encourage the resignation of 3,000 employees. He added that the 74 Petroperu gas stations will be offered for sale to the private sector in the next few days.

During an interview with Cesar Hildebrandt on the "In Person" program, the minister said 1,500 workers will leave Petroperu during the first stage and 1,500 others will resign later. The goal is to promote the enterprise's stability and health.

Regarding the sale of the 74 gas stations, he said there was no reason for Petroperu to keep them simply to return some political favors. [passage omitted]